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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
**How big an impact
the closing of
Hollywood Theaters
is on the quality of life
on the islands?**

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INSIDE



Visit Ends

Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Mass to close out his first papal trip to the United States.

NATION...Page 14



Historic Win

Former Roman Catholic bishop Fernando Lugo won a historic victory in Paraguay's presidential election Sunday.

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Admin Day

Hyatt Regency Saipan hosted an Administrative Professionals Day luncheon on April 17 at the Sand Castle showroom.

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Two WASC officials visit NMC. **PAGE 2**

'Risk pool too small for medical malpractice insurance in NMI'

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

Medical malpractice insurance from reputable U.S.-based

insurance companies is not readily available to the CNMI because the islands' risk pool is too small, according to the Commonwealth Health Cen-

ter's litigation counsel, David Lochabay.

"There aren't enough doctors [on the islands] to spread the risk of malpractice claims

for an insurance company to be able to administer a policy to collect payments and pay out whatever claims there may be," Lochabay said.

This, he said, is one of the reasons why a reputable insurance company would not likely sell medical malpractice

See RISK on Page 4

12 caught in illegal taxi dragnet

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A crackdown on illegal taxis on Saipan conducted by combined law enforcers from different agencies resulted in the arrest of 12 persons in western Garapan Saturday night.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The 10 confiscated sedans operating as illegal taxis are seen parked behind the Department of Corrections building in Susupe yesterday.

Boy, 10, killed in car-bike collision

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A 10-year-old boy died when a bicycle he was driving collided with a car being driven by former Rep. Ana S. Teregeyo in lower Dandan Homestead Saturday at noon.

The boy had severe trauma/laceration to the head and abrasions in his lower extremities. A doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center pronounced him dead at 2:40pm, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

See BOY on Page 4

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Claudio K. Norita and Attorney General Matthew Gregory told the media yesterday that nine men were arrested for operating il-

legal taxicabs, one woman was nabbed for prostitution, and two men for overstaying in the CNMI.

Ten vehicles used in the illegal taxi operation were impounded

and towed to the Department of Corrections for securing purposes, said Norita and Gregory during a news briefing in the Governor's Office's conference

See 12 CAUGHT on Page 4

Big bush fire hits Capital Hill area

A big bush fire broke out on Capitol Hill yesterday afternoon, sweeping down the mountain from Wireless Ridge to the outskirts of Tanapag Village.

The bush fire was reported to the Department of Public Safety at 1:46pm. As of 6:30pm last night, the flames could still be seen approaching Tanapag.

The blaze could also be seen still threatening destruction to houses atop the Ridge around Zorrie Flats.

See BIG BUSH on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A DPS firefighter hoses down the bush fire to contain the blaze that broke out at Wireless Antenna area on Capitol Hill yesterday afternoon.

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Local

Mobil increases its gas prices anew

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gas prices on Saipan are

slowly creeping toward the \$5 a gallon mark, after Mobil Oil Marianas increased its gas prices again effective Sunday

night. It was the company's fifth increase so far this year.

A check with Mobil gas stations yesterday showed that the

company increased its prices of regular and super gasoline by 12 cents a gallon. Mobil also increased its diesel price by 14 cents a gallon.

As part of regular practice, the company does not publicly announce price increases. It also does not explain the impetus behind the adjustment of gas prices on the island.

With the new prices, Mobil's self-service regular gas is now \$4.329 a gallon, while self-service for super is now at \$4.519 per gallon.

For full service, the regular is now \$4.459 a gallon and \$4.639 a gallon for super.

Mobil's diesel is now at \$4.779 a gallon.

Shell Marianas Inc. is expect-

ed to also increase its gas prices in the next few days. Unlike Mobil, Shell usually announces its gas price increase and gives an explanation.

Last April 10, Shell increased its gasoline products by six cents a gallon, and 10 cents a gallon for diesel.

After a day or two, Mobil also increased its gas prices.

Two WASC officials visit NMC

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

Two representatives of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges arrived yesterday for a one-day visit with the Northern Marianas College.

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges president Dr. Barbara Beno and ACCJC Commission member Floyd Takeuchi were on island to meet with NMC officials and government officials.

According to NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, "the

discussion would be focused on NMC-WASC related issues."

NMC officials, Beno, and Takeuchi were scheduled to meet with Senate President Pete Reyes later in the afternoon but did not show up.

E-mails and phone calls to NMC officials were not been returned as of press time.

NMC submitted the March 15 special report last month, updating the accrediting agency on the school's progress in addressing deficiencies noted in the college's fiscal year 2006 financial reports.

The audit findings were part of

the concerns raised by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, which placed NMC on "show cause" status in January 2008.

NMC's special report, dated March 15, 2008, lists the 14 financial statement findings and states the steps taken to address each of them.

A separate report, NMC's Show-Cause Report, due Oct. 15, 2008, is expected to demonstrate that the institution has resolved the recommendations and concerns as identified by the 2000 and 2006 visiting teams.

Bill gives non-FDIC banks 10-year breather

A pending government deposits bill has been amended to accommodate non-federally insured banks that currently hold public funds.

The House of Representatives, in passing House Bill 16-4, included a grandfathering provision allowing banks that are not members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to continue receiving government deposits for the next 10 years.

H.B. 16-4 proposes minimum requirements for banks to meet before any public funds

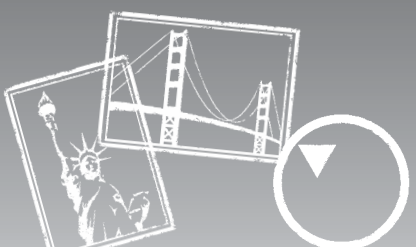
are deposited into them. Under the bill, funds amounting to less than \$100,000 must be deposited only with FDIC-insured banks. All of the deposited funds in excess of the insurance coverage should be secured by bank assets valued at all time at 100 percent of the excess funds. Bank assets that serve as collateral for the public funds should be in the form of U.S. Treasury bonds and U.S. government agency securities.

Bank of Saipan is one example of a non-FDIC bank that

currently holds government funds. According to Secretary John S. Del Rosario, the Department of Public Lands currently has over \$4 million under receivership held in a master account at Bank of Saipan. On a monthly basis, Bank of Saipan transfers \$29,500 plus interest to a revolving account. DPL withdraws from this revolving account every six months and transfers the funds to an FDIC account at Bank of Guam.

But with the grandfathering

See **BILL** on Page 4




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'US-China travel pact could help NMI'

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

A soon-to-be-signed group travel pact between the United States and China may help the CNMI's bid for Chinese tourists once federal immigration laws apply to the Commonwealth.

But while the agreement will make it easier for Chinese tourists to travel to the United States, it will have no effect on U.S. visa requirements.

"Given the requirements for U.S. visitor visas, and depending on the countries included in the CNMI-Guam visa waiver program, the pending legislation could change access to the CNMI for visitors from some countries," the U.S. Government Accountability Office said in its legal analysis

of Senate bill 2739.

Access to the CNMI for Chinese, as well as Russian, tourists is one of the main reasons local businesses oppose the proposed federal takeover of local immigration. Both countries are emerging markets for the CNMI's visitor industry.

Federalization is expected to affect the CNMI-China memorandum of understanding, which was signed after the Chinese government granted the much coveted "approved destination status" to the Northern Marianas.

According to GAO, that MOU may be replaced by a new one between the United States and China. The U.S. memorandum facilitates Chinese leisure group travel to the United States by complying with Chinese reg-

ulatory requirements for Chinese tourists traveling abroad. But Chinese tourists will still be required to obtain U.S. visas for travel to the United States.

Whether Chinese tourists could continue to come to the CNMI without U.S. visas would still depend on whether China was included in the CNMI-Guam visa waiver program provided in the federalization bill.

While China and Russia are currently not included in the CNMI's entry permit waiver program, the CNMI allows applicants from these and other countries to apply for a visitor entry permit by mail or fax. In addition, information on visitor permit applicants from China is collected and reviewed by the CNMI under an electronic program.

Under U.S. immigration laws, most of these applicants would

be required to apply in person at a U.S. embassy or consulate,

some of which have interview appointment wait times of 30 days or longer.

They also would pay at least \$131 for a U.S. visitor visa, while most CNMI visitor entry permits are provided for free.



USS HIGGINS

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and Military Veterans Affairs Office executive director Ruth Coleman receive a plaque of appreciation and memorabilia from visiting USS Higgins (DDG 76) Commander Winton Smith, Lt. Commander Grant Dunn and Command Master Chief David Renwick during yesterday's courtesy visit at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill. Higgins is an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer in the United States Navy.

SSHS triumphs at annual drill competition

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School bested four other battalions during this year's 4th Annual Combined Drill Meet held Saturday at the Army Reserve Center.

Schools that participated in the event were Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Tinian High School, and Rota High School.

The drill meet consisted of six drill disciplines that included Unarmed Regulation, Armed Regulation, Color Guard Rifle, Color Guard Saber, Unarmed Fancy Drill and Armed Exhibition. Cadets practice daily and on weekends to gain a high level of coordination and expertise in all of these disciplines.

The most visible symbol of each High School JROTC program are their "Color Guard" Teams, which perform at numerous ceremonies and functions throughout the entire year.

LTC Robert Gay, director of Army Instruction-JROTC, said he "extremely proud of all the high school programs, their cadets and instructors."

"Drill and ceremonies serve as the bedrock of discipline for all team related events and provide the foundation for professionalism and excellence in any organization, whether it be a military unit, a business or an athletic team," Gay said.

Individually, SSHS won the Unarmed Regulation Event. KHS won the Armed Regulation and Color Guard Rifle Events. MHS won the Unarmed Fancy Drill and the Color Guard Saber Events. MHS also won the Armed Exhibition Event but this event was not included in the overall competition due to the lack of drill rifles available to all the schools.

"Next year, that will be changed as we are due to receive 45 drill rifles per school prior to the start of the academic year," Gay said.

He said that all of the CNMI

cadets performed in an outstanding manner.

"The level of competition was very high. Saipan Southern High School JROTC emerged as the overall winner, followed closely by Marianas and Kagman High Schools in a hotly contested

contest," he added.

The CNMI Military Ball is the next big event involving all of the high schools and the JROTC. This is scheduled to take place on May 10 at the Saipan World Resort. Kagman High School is hosting the event this year.

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Today is Earth Day

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

In celebration of Earth Day and the National Park Week the Year of the Reef, CoCo is continuing its free movie showing of Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*.

An Inconvenient Truth focuses on Gore and his travels in support of his efforts to educate the public about the

severity of the climate crisis.

Gore says, "I've been trying to tell this story for a long time and I feel as if I've failed to get the message across."

The film closely follows a keynote presentation that Gore presented throughout the world. It intersperses Gore's exploration of data and predictions regarding climate change and its potential for disaster with Gore's life story.

If you have not yet seen *An Inconve-*

nient Truth, take advantage now.

An Inconvenient Truth will be shown today, April 22, 1 pm, 3pm, and 6pm.

It will also be screened tomorrow, April 23, at 10am, 1pm, and 3pm, and on Saturday, April 26, also at 10am, 1pm, and 3pm.

Also for Earth Day, the Division of Environmental Quality is focusing on its "Plant a Tree / Beach Clean-Up", which is scheduled for Friday, April 25, 2008 from 2pm to 4pm.

For questions or comments, contact Plant a Tree/Beach Clean-Up coordinator Jonathan I. Arriola at 664-8500.

BILL

From Page 2

provision, Bank of Saipan would be able to keep DPL's deposits for the next 10 years.

The conditions are that the bank must furnish and pledge security in the form of U.S. Treasury bills valued at 100 percent of the deposits, come into compliance with the law within 10 years of the effective date, and issue disclosures of public deposits on a quarterly basis.

Some lawmakers have raised con-

cerns about the grandfathering provision. Rep. Tina Sablan, for one, said the amendment "raised questions about why public funds were deposited in such banks in the first place if the solvency of the banks would be in jeopardy should these funds be withdrawn."

But Sablan, who eventually voted for the bill, was assured by proponents of the bill that the included conditions "would help protect public funds without creating a crisis for banks that presently hold these funds."

The bill now heads to Senate. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

BIG BUSH

From Page 1

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogomoro told *Saipan Tribune* that as of 5:30pm no one has been reported injured and no house has been burned.

Ogomoro said that 10 DPS firefighters were in the area trying to contain the blaze.

Ogomoro said there is no informa-

tion yet as to the origin of the fire.

"The cause of the fire has yet to be determined by fire investigators," she said.

The DPS spokesperson said she has no information whether some houses will be affected if the fire continues to spread out.

Although witnesses said the fire was big, the extent of the blaze was also not clear yet.

Firefighters stood watch, with

equipment at the ready, to battle the multi-line blaze should it reach the residential area.

As of 6:30pm, the northern fireline was near the Magellan Hotel while the southern firebreak still holds at a ridge-line near houses close to the cemetery. The flames were still spreading as this goes to press.

Earlier, at around 1:15pm, firefighters Nick Kapileo and Steve Limes arrived at the Wireless Cemetery to find the

Forest Service fire engine on the scene. Together they dragged hoses from their DPS Fire Department Engine No. 5 to a fire line some 400 feet away, trying to keep the flames from sweeping into the cemetery. They managed to extinguish the blaze a scant 50 feet from the edge of the consecrated property.

According to Kapileo: "The fire is still under investigation, and no known cause has yet been found." Kapileo went on to say that their primary job

was to "try to keep the fire from spreading to the residential area where it might endanger lives and property."

Limes noted that it had been three or four years since a fire of this magnitude struck the rugged hillsides above Tanapag.

In the past, hunters of small roe deer and of coconut crabs have been known to set the meadows and forests afire to flush out the game in order to harvest it. (*Ferdie dela Torre and Bruce Bateman*)

BOY

From Page 1

Teregeyo, 60, was not arrested after traffic investigators determined that the boy was at fault in the crash.

"Speed and alcohol were not factors to this crash, but the case is still under investigation," said DPS spokesperson Lei Ogomoro.

She said that it was Teregeyo who called DPS Saturday at 12:52pm and reported the collision along Holiday

Drive in lower Dandan Homestead.

When traffic and patrol officers arrived at the scene, they requested for medics.

Preliminary investigation showed that Teregeyo was heading north on Holiday Drive aboard a burgundy two-door wagon 2007 Toyota FJ Cruiser.

The boy was riding a black/blue bicycle and was heading west on Independence Loop, when he entered Holiday Drive, colliding with Teregeyo's vehicle.

Ogomoro said that medics immediately transported the boy to CHC's emergency room for further assess-

ment and treatment, but he was later pronounced dead.

Police said the bicycle frame was slightly bent, while the vehicle had no visible damage.

Ogomoro said the weather was cloudy and the road surface was slightly wet from a shower earlier that day.

She said the boy violated a subsection in the CNMI Vehicle Code that states: "Any vehicle entering the intersection shall stop at the entrance to a through highway."

Ogomoro said the Vehicle Code also

states that any vehicle entering the intersection shall also "yield the right of way to other vehicles which have entered the intersection from the through highway or which are approaching so closely on the through highway as to constitute an immediate hazard."

She said the Vehicle Code further states that any vehicle entering the intersection "shall continue to yield the right of way to the approaching vehicles until such time as he can proceed with reasonable safety."

The boy is the second vehicular fa-

tality this year in the CNMI.

On Feb. 8, a 65-year-old Chinese man died when a pickup truck struck him as he was crossing Middle Road in Garapan.

On Dec. 6, 2007, a male fire dancer died when his car ran off the roadway and slammed into a power pole along Middle Road in Garapan.

Three fatal vehicular crashes occurred in 2007.

In 2006, there were six fatalities in vehicular accidents in the CNMI. All occurred on Saipan.

12 CAUGHT

From Page 1

room.

The nine taxi operators were Dong Shun Chen, 38; Jun Yang, 29; Xue Zhe Quan, 33; Yan Li Xia, 36; Guanghua Wu, 28; Hong Fei Cheng, 37; Dong Shan Luo, 36; Yong Zhang, 25; and Xiao Jun Cao, 27.

One of the operators was treated for scratches he sustained after he tried to run away from officers during a violator's stop. Medics treated him for minor scratches to the left knee and forehead, according to a police report prepared by Detective Jeff F. Olopai.

Arrested for prostitution was Xue

Qin Huang, 40. Di Fang Xu, 23, and Hu Li, 22, were detained for allegedly overstaying in the Commonwealth.

Norita said the operation, dubbed "Strike Force Echo," is an offshoot of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's anti-prostitution task force.

"Our approach was basically to target the illegal taxis that roam in western Garapan, using the law that was passed in the 14th Legislature that makes it illegal for anybody to operate a taxi without a taxi permit and license and give DPS the authority to seize the taxis and forfeit the taxis for the government," Norita said.

The commissioner said they conducted a surveillance operation on up to 13 vehicles that they suspect to be

illegal taxis.

"Of the 13, we got enough probable cause on 10 to make a stop, make the arrest, as well as impound the vehicles," he said.

Norita said that Immigration and the Attorney General's Investigative Unit were active in the investigation by also processing about 15 passengers that were in the taxis.

Norita said the illegal taxis are an integral part of moving prostitutes at night.

"We said we'd start with the illegal taxis. Again it's an offshoot of the anti-prostitution [drive]. It's an approach toward finding a way to curtail [prostitution]. One way to do it is to take away the taxis," the commissioner said.

In his report to acting CID commander Sgt. Sylvan M. Rangamar, Olopai said that enforcement measures of Public Law 14-72 were identified and given to CID for execution on Friday. The purpose of the measure was to identify, arrest, and forfeit illegal taxis on the island, he said.

On Saturday at 6pm, the detective said, enforcers from CID, the Labor Enforcement Section, and Division of Immigration conducted the "Strike Force Echo" operation against illegal taxis within the western Garapan district.

At 9:45pm, the operation went into full force with assistance from DPS patrol and traffic officers. All identified suspected illegal taxis were stopped and

the drivers were arrested and brought to the DPS Boating Safety Section Office.

Olopai said all passengers in the taxis were also taken into custody.

After investigators from the Attorney General Investigative Unit and Labor personnel screened them, all, except the three, were released.

During the course of the investigation, Miss Huang was arrested for prostitution after a Japanese man, who was with the defendant in an illegal taxi, confessed to investigators that he had sex with her for a fee.

AGIU agents detained the alleged overstaying aliens—Xu and Li—at the Department of Corrections for further investigation.

RISK

From Page 1

insurance to the CNMI.

He explained that the way insurance works is that a great number of people pay up a small amount of money in order to create a pool of money. From that pool of money, claims will be paid depending on what the insurance is. Lochabay said that doctors would have to pay a certain amount in premiums every month or year and that money will be collected by an insurance company and administered.

"From that, any claims for any negligence will be paid out of that. But you have to have a minimum number of people paying premiums before that will work. If you don't have enough people paying premiums, then one claim wipes you out," Lochabay said.

To ensure, however, that doctors are not truly vulnerable to malpractice claims, all non-government physicians

need to show proof of medical liability coverage should they want to practice at the Commonwealth Health Center, according to Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez.

He said the issue of medical malpractice insurance has been a "major issue with private providers since there is no readily available medical malpractice insurance coverage carrier in the CNMI or Guam."

As a compromise, Villagomez said that "we have been requesting all private physician that want to have privileges at CHC that they need to show purchase of a bond for up to \$100,000 or show assets (either monetary or goods) that is also at the \$100,000 level."

Another source of information that insurance companies would look at before extending medical malpractice insurance here is the history or the insurance database of CHC, which is not available.

"The only thing they would know is that we have a really small risk pool

and that is enough in itself—that risk pool is too small. That, and the history of a particular insurance claim is absent," Lochabay said.

He described it as a "complete shot in the dark."

"No businessman, no insurance company wants to take a complete shot in the dark. They want to know what they're doing, they want to be able to assess the risk before they assume the risk, and there is no way to assess the risk here," Lochabay said.

Another factor a reputable U.S. insurance company would take into consideration is the size of the hospital.

"CHC is a small hospital with limitations in the types of services it can render. ...They would look at CHC and likely conclude that CHC cannot furnish the broad range of services that would be necessary to minimize their exposure in the event of a claim," Lochabay said.

He said that insurance companies would also likely take medical referral

into account.

"All those reasons makes a reputable U.S. insurance company coming out here and getting into the Saipan market an impossibility; they will not do it," he emphasized.

Lochabay conceded that it would be possible for international insurers to come out here and provide such an insurance but it would cost the CNMI too much to be feasible.

A provision was made two years ago to require CNMI doctors to get medical malpractice insurance. A former legal counsel researched and determined that it would cost the cash-strapped Public Health \$6 million to \$8 million annually to buy medical malpractice insurance in the international market for the physicians at CHC.

"So yes, they would come out here and assume the risk, but they want an arm and a leg for it. But we cannot blame them because they do not have any way of judging what their claims experience is going to be," Lochabay said.

Six to eight million a year in premium for medical malpractice insurance would translate to another hefty increase in hospital charges. DPH had just implemented new rates on Dec. 1, 2007, replacing facility rates that were in place since 1993.

"We didn't raise prices for 15 years. This led to a huge jump in prices and we don't need another one, we don't need to add another 20 to 40 percent for insurance," Lochabay said.

He added that the CHC needs to hold prices down as low as possible "so that people will be able to access healthcare as needed."

"Does it do any good to have doctors that are insured, to have a hospital if people cannot afford to go there?" he asked.

CHC pays between \$100,000 to \$200,000 a year on medical settlements a year. Lochabay said that not all settlements are admission of fault; some are made to avoid lengthy—and costlier—litigation.

'Offset law is blocking CUC's cash flow'

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. says its cash flow problem has been made worse by a recently enacted law on security deposit offset.

'Sweet Paradise' Administrative Professionals Day at Aqua Resort

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Aqua Resort Club will have a treat for all sweet-tooths out there during its Administrative Professionals Day tomorrow, April 23, at the Costa Terrace and Raraina restaurants.

Dubbed "Sweet Paradise" Special Lunch Buffet, the event will feature delectable dessert offerings not for the faint-hearted, according to Aqua Resort food and beverage sales manager Yoshimi Yanagisawa.

"The buffet contains a great dessert buffet especially created for this event," she said.

In keeping with the midday afternoon's theme, live entertainment consisting of soothing piano music will be rendered by Philip Garcia.

"This will be suitable for the classy ladies who always love to dine at Aqua Resort," added Yanagisawa.

Aside from the delicious buffet lunch, Aqua Resort will also give away boxes of homemade chocolates and orchids to all administrative professionals that dine at the Achugao hotel during the event.

"We call the event 'Sweet Paradise' because aside from the dessert buffet extravaganza, we will also be giving away chocolates to secretaries and

Under the law, CUC must first apply a customer's security deposit toward any past due amount. The utility cannot cut service to the customer while there is money remaining in the security deposit.

"Not only is this requirement an administrative nightmare," said CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero, "it is also blocking our cash flow."

CUC's old practice already allowed a customer to consume power for 62 to 81 days without making a payment. The offset requirement made the "grace period" even longer.

CUC now depends largely on daily collections for money to pay for fuel. Last week, the utility came close to running out of fuel. But it was able to raise enough funds from customers. Guerrero reported that the offset requirement had helped expand CUC's receivables, currently about \$14.6 million. Some of these receiv-

ables go back 15 years.

They have been outstanding for various reasons. Some are abandoned accounts, and others involve longstanding disputes between CUC and the customers. Some are businesses gone bankrupt.

Some autonomous agencies owe CUC, but commercial and residential customers account for a large bulk of CUC's receivables.

The central government, which used to be CUC's single largest delinquent customer, has made advance payment for consumption until July 2008. The \$7 million the government has paid CUC represents its entire budget

for utility this fiscal year. The government has yet to find the money for its CUC bills for August and September.

The security deposit offset program is part of a larger measure regulating the disconnection of utility service to residential customers.

The law, which was passed despite a governor's veto, reduced the power reconnection fee from \$75 to \$60. It prohibit-

ed CUC from disconnecting any service before the disconnection date, and from disconnecting all utility services if the consumer is only delinquent in the payment of one service.

Further, the legislation prohibited CUC from cutting off service to a consumer who is receiving subsidy from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs if DCCA is delayed in remitting the funds.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

April 20, 2008

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRWOMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Roll Call
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
 1. November 15, 2007
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- V. REPORTS
 1. Financial Report - DCD
 2. Loan Reports
 - a. Approved Loans & Bank Guarantees
 - b. Bank Guarantees Status Report
 - c. Loan Status/Receivables Report
 - d. DCD Performing Loan Summary/Delinquency & Litigation
- VI. OLD BUSINESS
 1. Borrowers' Requests, Updates & Recommendations
- VII. NEW BUSINESS
 1. House Bill 16-52
 2. New Borrowers' Requests
- VIII. OTHER MATTERS
 1. Apartment/Commercial Building Listing
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman, DCD Board of Directors

Shrimp farm to export broodstocks anew to Indonesia



By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan SyAqua Aquaculture will again export broodstocks to Indonesia after its buyer—one of the country's biggest

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan SyAqua Aquaculture's Pacific white shrimp (*Penaeus Vannamei*) broodstock are seen here swimming inside soon-to-be oxygenated plastic bags before being shipped to Indonesia.

shrimp hatcheries—was so satisfied with the original shipment that it ordered more.

According to the local shrimp farm's operations manager, Rommel G. Catalma, the shipment of 125 pairs of father and mother broodstock Pacific white shrimp (*Penaeus Vannamei*) is scheduled on April 29.

"It will be for the same buyer in Indonesia and again it is for 125 pairs. This is very good because it means they were happy with the first shipment. The price is still the same, \$25 per pair excluding packaging and freight," he said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Like the original shipment, the transaction easily netted the company \$6,250.

Catalma said the parent shrimps exported to Indonesia weighed about 30 grams to 45 grams per piece and that the Cargo Express service that the live freight will be on will take the Saipan-Narita-Singapore-Indonesia route.

Last Dec. 27, Saipan SyAqua marked a milestone when it shipped 250 broodstocks to the Southeast Asian nation.

Currently, Saipan SyAqua is the only shrimp farm outside of Hawaii that exports Pacific white shrimp broodstock. This

is because under the law, only U.S. territories are allowed to export the broodstock of that particular specie since it was developed by Hawaii's Oceanic Institute.

Catalma added that aside from the restriction, there are also stringent requirements to be able to export parent shrimp to other countries. First, a farm or facility needs a two-year disease-free certification from the University of Arizona and then pass the inspection of the department of fisheries of the particular country the company is exporting to.

He said Saipan SyAqua passed the quarterly reviews from the University of Arizona and was given the green light to export by Thailand and Indonesia.

Earlier this year, the company embarked on an expansion of its China Town facility, which is expected to increase production by 200 percent.

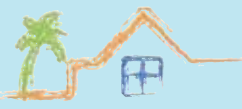
While the shrimp farm currently has a watered area of 16,000 square feet, the new construction would triple its watered area to 48,000 square feet with the addition of four large grow out tanks and two nursery tanks.

It will also entail the building of a deep well, a new filtration system for water circulation, and a 50,000-gallon water reservoir.

Catalma said the ultimate goal of the expansion is to meet current demand, which the company has trouble fulfilling, by producing between 8,000 to 10,000 lbs. of shrimp per month before the end of 2008.

Saipan SyAqua currently produces 3,000 to 4,000 lbs of shrimp per month, which it distributes to numerous hotels and restaurants on Saipan as well as sells them chilled at the Sabalu market.

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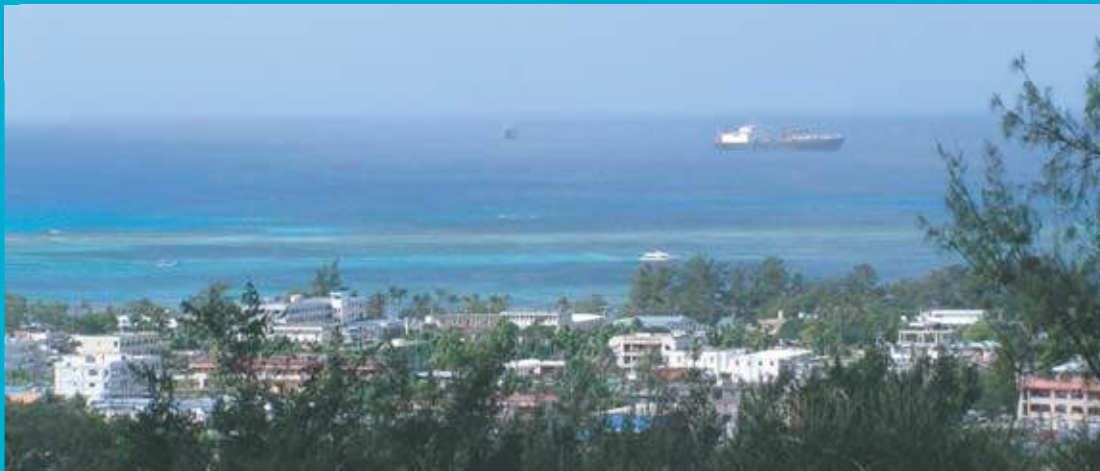
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Volunteers haul more than 1000 lbs of trash

More than 25 volunteers hauled over a thousand pounds of debris out of the Garapan fishing dock on Friday.

The usual garbage found included aluminum cans, glass bottles and various plastic items. Divers also heaved a scuba tank ashore.

The cleanup started at 8am along the shore, followed by a

dive. A second dive was performed in the afternoon. Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association members and Toshi Yamaguchi, NMDOA president, also donated their time to this event.

According to Marvin Seman, cleanup coordinator, there continues to be debris along the shoreline and in the water. DEQ wanted to engage the commu-

nity, especially the island divers, in protecting marine waters and thus organized a dive cleanup.

Debris can kill marine life. Garbage is often times mistaken for food and becomes ingested by wildlife. Marine life can also be harmed by entanglement. Entanglement results when an animal become encircled or ensnared by garbage. Entangle-



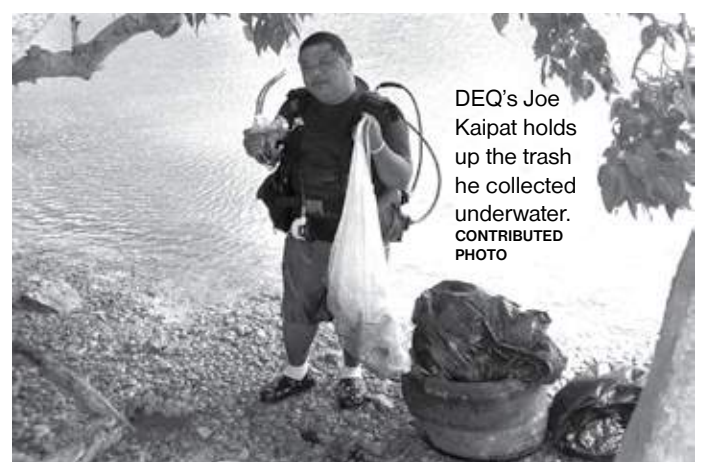
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMDOA was one of the main group of volunteers at the DEQ-sponsored dive cleanup.

ment can occur accidentally, or when the animal is attracted to the debris as part of its normal behavior or out of curiosity.

Garbage can also block drainage systems and cause flooding. Stormwater runoff (the water that flows along the streets or round as a result of a storm) can carry street litter into sewer pipes, which flow to the ocean, thus, impacting water quality.

The dive cleanup was part of DEQ's environmental awareness celebration. (CoCo)



DEQ's Joe Kaipat holds up the trash he collected underwater. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Did you take the right route?

April 11 was a little different for some 807 islanders, but ask any one of them and they'll tell you they were proud to have gone the "right route."

Right route organizer Kathy Yuknavage said the turnout was fantastic. More than 21 organizations on Saipan, 16 on Tinian and 15 on Rota walked, biked, ran, or carpool to work (or school). Rota had the biggest draw with 324 participants, followed by Saipan with 246 and of course Tinian with 237.

"It sure brings back memories when we used to walk everywhere," said Maria H. Aguon, right route coordinator for NMC-Tinian. Aguon said the NMC-Tinian goal is to continue walking/carpool to work every Friday.

The "right route" event aimed to reduce carbon footprint.

Carbon footprint is the direct effect that one's actions and lifestyle have on the environment in terms of CO₂ emissions. One of the biggest contributors to one's personal "footprint" are travel needs and electricity demands.

Yuknavage said that, "by taking small steps, like walking or carpooling to school or work on a regular basis, we can help reduce global warming and climate change."

Walking, biking and carpooling have other benefits as well. "In the spirit of right route, my wife Tammy and I started carpooling at the beginning of March. Not only do I get to enjoy her company for an extra 40 minutes a day, but in the month of March we saved almost \$100 dollars in gas. It does have its inconve-

niences but the benefits to us and the environment definitely outweigh them," said Mark James, coordinator for Xerox. He added he and his wife will continue to carpool with a goal of at least four days a week.

If you know any of right route participants, give them a pat on the back and consider joining them at the next event. Better yet, start a monthly or weekly right route activity. Carpooling allows you to spend quality time with your family and save a little gas, too. Or save even more money by biking, walking, or running to work. Together, we can all take small steps to reduce carbon footprint.

All participants of the right route received a blue pair of "walk it, don't drive it" zories. (CoCo)

An event to benefit higher education in the Northern Mariana Islands



Early Registration Fee \$85

Late Entry after April 19 is \$100

Maximum 120 players limited slots available. First come first serve.

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Saturday April 26 LaoLao Bay West Course

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Sanko
Staywell
Sushi Land
Tan Holdings
TakeCare
UMDA (Island Apparel)
USG Investment

Award dinner 6pm at Hyatt Poolside



MINA is Light in the Eve's beneficiary

By **RIANNE PANGLEINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Light in the Eve Foundation has once again pulled off another night of glitz and glamour to raise funds for another worthwhile cause during this year's Pineapple Ball "Glamour Under the Sea."

The event, which drew the interest of over a hundred people, held an auction to help generate funds for the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance at the Giovanni's Restaurant, Hyatt Regency Saipan Saturday evening.

Light in the Eve Foundation president Theresa Kim said the event was dedicated to the parts of the islands that are being destroyed and to educate the CNMI to preserve those parts that remain pristine.

"It is for that reason that the

Light in the Eve Foundation is excited to raise funds for this worthwhile cause," Kim said.

MINA chairwoman Fran Castro said that proceeds received from the event will go to this year's Teacher Education Camp.

Last summer, MINA trained 20 teachers and introduced them the basics of Coral Reef Ecology.

As a result of that, 40 lesson plans were produced and 20 future plans were brought back to school in the Fall of last year, just in time for the International Year of the Coral Reef celebration.

Castro said that at least 2,000 students were educated based on the teacher camp and that there is hope for this year to train 20 more teachers to bring back what they've learned about coral reefs into the classrooms.

MINA is a community-based, non-profit organization formed by a group of people dedicated to the conservation of the natural resources of the CNMI. It is composed of nine board members and at least a 100 active volunteers.

Castro said, "On behalf of MINA, I'd like to thank the Light in the Eve Foundation for choosing MINA as beneficiary of this year's proceeds."

This year is the sixth anniversary of the Light in the Eve Foundation that was created in 2003 with the mission to help the islands' non-profit groups achieve their goals in bettering the lives of resident of the CNMI.

Since its inception, the Pineapple Ball has raised over \$40,000 for the Marianas March Against Cancer, Karidat's Guam Esper-

ansa House of Hope, the CNMI Humanities Council's Mother Father Read Program, Connecting Families Inc., Micronesian Legal Services, and the CNMI Diabetes Coalition.

Kim said that the Light in the Eve Foundation would like to extend its gratitude and appreciation to all of its sponsors and guests "who believe in our mission of giving hope and creating possibilities by supporting us year after year."

Sponsors of this year's Pineapple Ball includes Shell Marianas, Sablan Topline Co., Marianas Pacific Distributors, Pena House Boutique, Younis Art Studio, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Marianas High School Productions, Duty Free Shoppers Galleria, Joeten Enterprises, PTI International, Gold's Gym Saipan, and Juanny's Hair Salon.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 22, 1999

CNMI gets backing

US Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Ca) has defended the Northern Marianas against plans that would strip the islands of duty free privileges, saying such move would throw back the CNMI to dependence on federal subsidies like other US territories. "I strongly disagree that we should single out the CNMI from our other U.S. territories and deny them the duty-free status for trying to find a formula that would enable them to be less dependent on U.S. taxpayers grant," Rohrabacher said in his Dear Colleague letter to members of Congress.

Gov't to cooperate in hosting illegals

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said his government is willing to accommodate requests by the United States to divert to the Northern Marianas vessels carrying illegal Chinese immigrants that will be captured by authorities in the future. "I have already made a commitment when I discussed this with the justice department. I have committed that we are ready to cooperate," the governor said in an interview.

Counsel: Rethink trade-zone law

The legal counsel of the Commonwealth Ports Authority has asked board members to examine the proposed Free Trade Zone Act of 1999 because it would intrude on the autonomy of the agency to decide how much of its property must be set aside for the establishment of a trade zone. Based on the proposed measure, some 60 hectares of land shall be made available in the vicinity of Saipan International Airport to be leased at reasonable rates.

April 22, 2002

More flights for China Air eyed

The CNMI government, together with the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the Marianas Visitors Authority, will collectively seek the support of the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant the remaining 100 flight permits for the China Southern Air. This, as Gov. Juan N. Babauta vowed to extend all necessary assistance to the MVA to cultivate the China market, which is seen to alleviate the condition of the CNMI tourism industry.

'Japan-US agreement will help us'

To obtain a first-hand look at how the decline in Japanese tourists have affected the local economy, a Department of Commerce delegation swung by the Northern Marianas over the weekend in a visit that they described as "action packed." This comes on the heels of a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Japan in a bid to bring tourism activity between the two countries back up to pre-9-11 levels.

NMI students' college tuition now more affordable

CNMI college students studying in Hawaii can now avail of tuition similar to the rate offered to Hawaii residents following a decision by the University of Hawaii system to adjust the course fees. Pat Grossman, Admissions Counselor for International Students at the UH-Hilo, informed acting Scholarship Administrator Meliza Guajardo of the good news last week.

April 22, 2003

Woman patient under DPH observation

Department of Public Health officials yesterday admitted that a woman patient has been under close monitoring and her case has been referred to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for immediate evaluation amid the global threat of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, but they stressed that they do not suspect it to be SARS. DPH officials headed by Secretary James U. Hofschneider called a press conference yesterday to vehemently deny that it has quarantined a person suspected to have been afflicted with SARS.

CPA lauds airlines' efforts vs SARS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority commended airline companies servicing Saipan for implementing tighter monitoring of their passengers amid the outbreak of the deadly disease Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. Carlos H. Salas, CPA executive director, noted that airlines that bring passengers in and out of the Commonwealth have been in close coordination with local aviation and health agencies to prevent the entry of any SARS carrier into the CNMI.



PUBLIC LECTURE

World War II veteran, aircraft navigator and a surviving prisoner of war Ray "Hap" Halloran speak about his experiences as a crew member aboard Rover Boys Express, a Saipan-based World War II B-29 bomber, during a public lecture sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities called "Time Heals All Wounds...Almost", at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Friday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting for **Friday, April 25, 2008 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Plumeria Room, Saipan World Resort; Saipan, MP.**

The following agenda is hereby established:

- I PRELIMINARIES**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
- II CONSULTANT REPORTS**
 - Legal Counsel Reports*
 - Loan Administrator Reports
 - Investment Consultant Reports
 - Performance Reports – March 31, 2008
 - Board Consultant Reports
 - Financial Statements – February/March 2007
- III CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
 - Office Space Matters
- IV OLD BUSINESS**
- V NEW BUSINESS**
- VI EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.
- VII MISCELLANEOUS**
- VIII ADJOURNMENT**

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

SELIM
Saipan, MP 96950
P.O. Box 502795CK
Tel. No. 670-285-8486

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER) FCD-CN
OF THE) CIVIL
PETITION) ACTION
FOR CHANGE) NO.
OF NAME OF:) 08-0150

SELIM)
Petitioner.) NOTICE
) OF
) HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on Monday, 5/12/2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Raymond and Clara R. Kapileo
P.O. Box
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 235-6488

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER) FCD AD
OF ADOPTION FOR) CIVIL
CLARAJEAN LEIMWAR) ACTION
RANGAMAR KAPILEO) NO.
Minor Child) 08-0208

by)
RAYMOND DELOS) NOTICE
REYES KAPILEO) OF
CLARA RANGAMAR) HEARING
KAPILEO)
Petitioners)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Adoption for the above-named minor child by Raymond Delos Reyes Kapileo and Clara Rangamar Kapileo Petitioners, was filed with the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Adoption will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Kenneth Govendo on the 29th day of April, 2008 at 1:30 P.M. or as soon as thereafter.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

DPL awaits court decision on pozzolan issue

The Department of Public Lands issued a statement Friday explaining why action on the proposed mining of pozzolan on Pagan Island remains stalled.

It said that the original priority by the Fitial administration and DPL to invest in pozzolan mining through competitive and fair business partnership remain stalled until such time that the Supreme and Superior Courts issue their respective decisions in the case.

The DPL statement was prompted by several recent public statements that have expressed disappointment about the delay in developing the pozzolan deposits on Pagan.

"DPL Secretary John S. Del Rosario Jr. shares this frustration, recognizing that these deposits might provide significant revenues to the Commonwealth if exploited in a professional and transparent manner. It is timely to provide an update on this matter in an effort to dispel any misstatements to the contrary," the statement said.

It then went on to relate the story behind the issue, which follows:

"1. The Secretary on Aug. 1, 2006, terminated the 1995 Permit granted to JG Sablan Rock Quarry, Inc. The Secretary concluded that the undisputed facts demonstrated that JG Sablan had violated several provisions of the 1995 Permit over many years and had not produced one dollar of revenue for the Commonwealth. The Secretary found that termination was nec-

essary to protect the public interest in these resources and to lay the groundwork for an open and competitive method for attracting qualified investors to participate in this project.

"2. JG Sablan filed an action in the Superior Court on Aug. 30, 2006, challenging the Secretary's decision on both procedural and substantive grounds. The Commonwealth filed a motion for partial summary judgment on the procedural issues on Oct. 18, 2006, and this motion was argued on Nov. 22, 2006. Almost a year later on Oct. 3, 2007, the trial court finally issued its decision and rejected JG Sablan's procedural contentions and held that the Secretary had complied with all the applicable laws and regulations in terminating the 1995 Permit.

"3. On June 12, 2007, the Commonwealth filed a second motion for summary judgment responding to JG Sablan's contentions that the Secretary's decision was wrong on the merits. This motion was argued on Aug. 7, 2007, and there has been no decision by the trial court on this motion every since.

"4. Even before the Secretary issued his termination decision on August 1, 2006, the CNMI Legislature meddled with Executive Branch authority by enacting Public Law 15-21 over the Governor's veto to reverse the Secretary's termination decision and revalidate JG Sablan's mining permit. The Commonwealth on Aug. 11, 2006, filed a complaint seeking a declaratory

judgment that this legislation was unconstitutional under the separation of powers doctrine and under Article XI of the CNMI Constitution. After argument on Nov. 22, 2006, the trial court issued its opinion on June 8, 2007, holding that two sections of Public Law 15-21 were constitutional and two sections were unconstitutional.

"5. Before the trial court issued the required 'separate document of entry of judgment,' JG Sablan proposed an amendment to its answer and submitted a proposed counterclaim based on one of the sections of Public Law 15-21 that the trial court had held to be constitutional. The Commonwealth opposed

the proposed amendment and counterclaim on the grounds that it was entitled to appeal from the trial court's decision upholding the constitutionality of the particular section of the law that JG Sablan was now seeking to rely upon. Among other arguments, the Commonwealth pointed out that JG Sablan was seeking to initiate a new lawsuit that might never need to be filed once the CNMI Supreme Court had an opportunity to review the trial court's ruling. The trial court rejected the Commonwealth's objections and permitted the amendment of JG Sablan's answer and the filing of the counterclaim.

"6. On Aug. 27, 2007, the

Commonwealth filed a petition for writ of mandamus in the CNMI Supreme Court. The Commonwealth contended that the trial court had not complied with the requirement of filing a separate document embodying its final judgment. It emphasized that the trial court was thereby postponing indefinitely the Commonwealth's right to appeal from its decision upholding the constitutionality of two sections of Public Law No. 15-21, and was requiring the parties to engage in lengthy and unnecessary additional litigation. Oral argument on this petition took place on Dec. 13, 2007, and no decision has been issued yet by the Supreme Court. All further

proceedings in the trial court have been stayed until the Supreme Court rules on the petition for a writ of mandamus.

"The department is looking forward to the decision of the trial court on the second motion for partial summary judgment and the decision of the Supreme Court on the petition for writ of mandamus. It has instructed its lawyers to take all appropriate steps to seek a prompt resolution of these legal proceedings," the statement said.

"Despite opportunities presented by the anticipated military buildup in Guam and the region, the CNMI's economic future continues to hang in the balance," it added. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of '88 meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1988 will have a meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito, behind Saipan International School (SIS), at 6:30pm.

Reunion day is just around the corner. Final details to be discussed at the meeting so all classmates are encouraged to attend.

For more information contact Lillian Lizama Tudela at 287-3742 or Dennis Villagomez at 287-4689. (PR)

Chamber reception for USS Higgins

Hyatt Regency Saipan will host the Chamber's reception for the officers and crew of the USS Higgins tomorrow, April 23, 2008, 6pm, beachside. There will be complimentary light food refreshments and a no-host bar. The Saipan Chamber will exchange plaques with the Higgins, as this is her first visit to Saipan. The USS Higgins has approximately 380 crewmembers.

Combat veterans briefing

This is to invite all combat veterans and their dependents for an information/counseling briefing by Catherine Illarmo, the Department of Veterans Affairs Team Leader/LCSW from the Guam Veterans Center. The briefing will be on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 1pm at the Army Reserve Center.

The Veterans Center is committed to providing quality readjustment services to returning war veterans. In the effort to address the needs of veterans residing in the CNMI, they are making plans to extend the services to Saipan on a monthly basis.

In addition to this meeting, there will be a limited number of Individual counseling appointments available for Friday morning, April 25, 2008, at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill at Bldg 1364, at 9am. Should you be interested in counseling, call Catherine at 1-671-472-7161 or Ruth at 664-2650.

Any questions or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. (PR)

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Thanking our GIs

To date, 56 senators and more than 200 representatives have signed on to legislation to revamp GI educational benefits. They recognize that the men and women fighting today's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are not getting their due. But if Congress is serious about doing right by America's veterans, it has to do more than come up with a list of names. It's time to enact a new GI bill and pay for it.

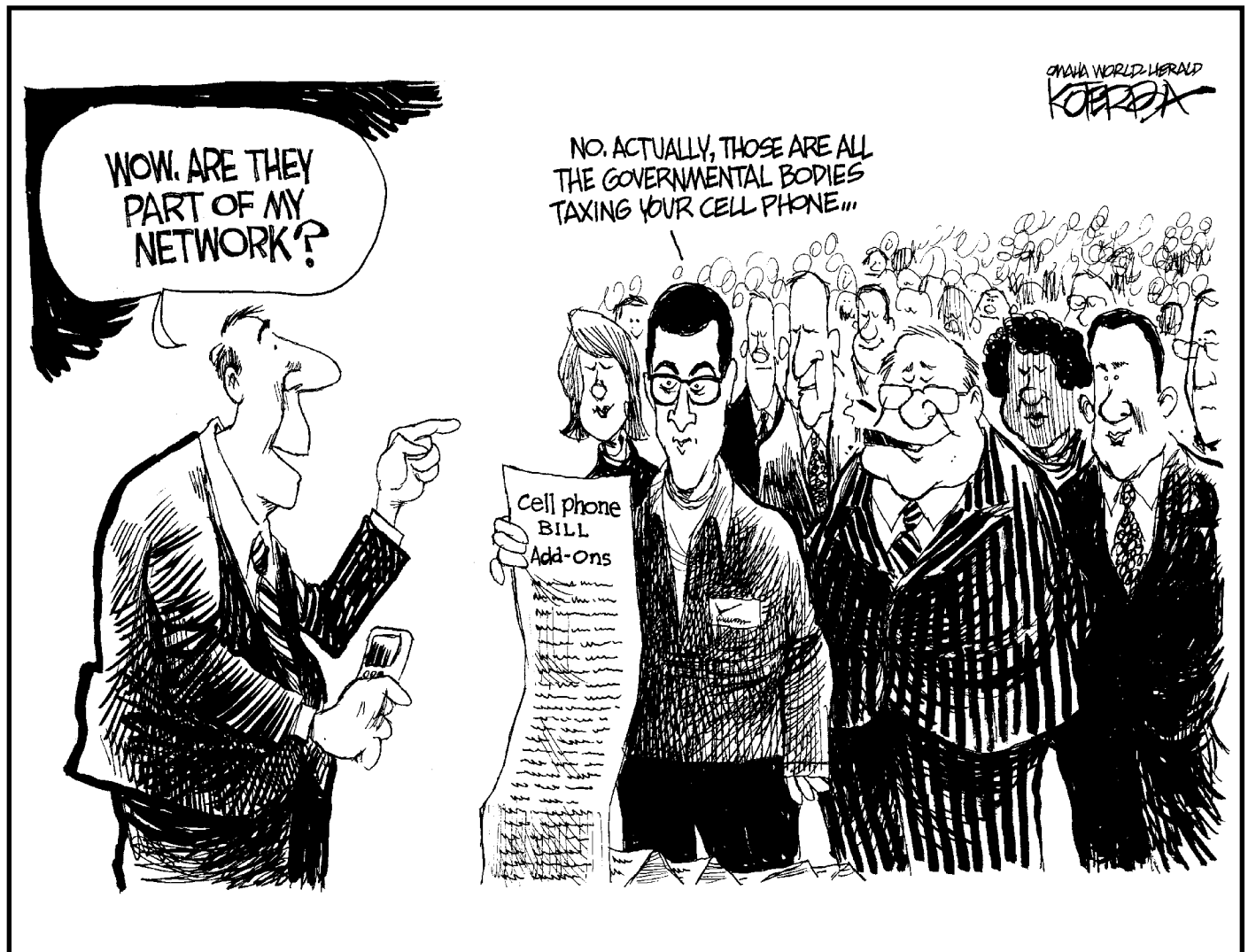
Impetus for the bill comes from Sen. James Webb, D-Va., a veteran with a family history of military service. Mr. Webb and a co-sponsor, Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., also a veteran, rightly argue that post-Sept. 11 veterans are being shortchanged by a system designed for peacetime that has not kept pace with increased college costs. Their bill, introduced in January 2007, would be true to the original GI bill enacted after World War II in providing a cost-free education to those who serve in the military.

The bill got an important boost last week with backing from Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, D-Hawaii, chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Even with that support, though, advocates are worried that the bill might not advance, and so they are targeting other influential lawmakers, especially those who sit on important appropriations committees, to add the measure to the emergency supplemental appropriations bill this spring.

Disappointingly, Sen. John McCain, presumptive Republican candidate for president, so far declines to back the measure. He seems to be responding to concerns of the military brass that enhanced educational opportunities could negatively affect retention rates. Not only is it wrong to want people to stay in the military because they have no alternatives, but such thinking ignores the advantages enhanced educational benefits offer in recruitment. To meet recruitment goals, the military has offered bonuses and lowered some of its standards. Imagine being able instead to promise possible recruits a first-class college education.

The bill is not cheap; cost estimates range from \$2 billion to \$4 billion a year. But better-educated veterans have more favorable readjustment experiences, which means less money spent on treating post-traumatic stress disorder and other difficulties. More to the point, this should be considered part of the cost of war—and an obligation that the nation should gratefully fulfill.

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Welcome USS Higgins

Once again we have a U.S. Navy vessel in port, the USS Higgins DDG76. The Higgins is an Arleigh Burke class destroyer, meaning she is a modern, extremely well-equipped warship carrying a variety of armaments and a finely honed crew of technical experts and professional sailors.

The crew of the Higgins has been on deployment for some time now and is here to get some much deserved rest and relaxation. If you have never been to sea, take it from me that everyone on board works long, exhaustive hours to make and keep a naval vessel ready to respond instantly to any call. They need a rest.

Sailors, you will find Saipan a very military friendly place to spend some time. The scuba diving is great here, fellas, as is the golf—world class in both cases. There are scores of great restaurants, outstanding resort hotels, and good shopping for those items to take back home. Bars, lounges and nightclubs abound, too.

Charter fishing, snorkeling and many other water sports are available (I will volunteer to take a few of you sailing if you want to go; many others will volunteer to help you out, too). Hikers will find lots of jungle trails to keep them busy (check out the Hash Run each Saturday at 3:30pm, meet at the Bank of Guam parking lot across from the Hard Rock). The Flame Tree Arts Festival sporting food, music, dancing, plus arts and craft, is coming this weekend, too. Finally, Saipan and Tinian are filled with historical and cultural sites that invite exploration.

We welcome you, officers and crew, one and all!

■ ■ ■

Will I live to see 80?

A friend of mine wrote to me recently saying:

I recently picked a new primary care doctor. After two visits and exhaustive lab tests, he said I was doing "fairly well" for my age. A little concerned about that comment, I couldn't resist asking him, "Do you think I'll live to be 80?" He asked, "Do you smoke tobacco, or drink beer or wine?" "Oh no," I replied, "I'm not doing drugs, either."

Then he asked, "Do you eat ribeye steaks and barbecued ribs?" I said, "No, my former doctor said that all red meat is very unhealthy!" "Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, sailing, hiking, or bicycling?" "No, I don't," I said. He asked, "Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or have a lot of sex?" "No," I said.

He looked at me and said, "Then, why do you even give a darn?"

I find this exchange pretty enlightening. Its allegory bids us to do the things we are interested in doing while we can still do them. If you like to dance, well then dance before arthritis or gout sets in and leaves you sitting on the sidelines.

This advice seems to work for countries as well as individuals. Pozzolan is in the news again, and according to the last expert hired

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes *Sour Grapes* when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: <http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/>



to go up and take a look at the stuff lying around Pagan, because of erosion there is a whole lot less of it now than was reported 15 years ago. The money that natural resource could have provided to the whole CNMI during the last 10 years of economic decline might have made up the difference and our lives and infrastructure might be a lot better now. Maybe we would have a first-world power generation system instead of what we have.

One thing is for sure, we can't go back 10 years for a redux, so all we can do now is fret over lost opportunities and vow to do better in the future. Self-interest, eco-advocates, court cases, shady deals, investors with another agenda, political pandering, all have played a role in seeing nothing productive happened. Meanwhile the pozzolan ash slides off Pagan into the sea. Maybe the greatest single cause is simple procrastination. We expect the stuff will still be there as a resource forever so we put off tapping the resource. Some few individuals think it may be bad for us so we all put off enjoying the fruits until now it may be becoming too late to enjoy them at all.

This pozzolan pickle is not the only time we will be faced with a similar dilemma. Do we harvest our resources? Do we reserve the right or fight for the right to harvest our countries resources so we may make use of them when the time is right as other more prosperous nations do? Or do we leave the steak on the platter and die without tasting its abundance?

■ ■ ■

Water power

An interesting alternative to the electric power generation problem we have was proposed a number of years ago but languished and went nowhere because the money was rolling in the early '90s and we could afford all the then-cheap diesel we needed to run our generator's engines.

Proposed by Siemens, one of the world's biggest technology companies, the idea was to have the never-ending action of the sea power our generators using water movement like many other hydroelectric systems do. Water is trapped and released and its moving energy is

See WELCOME on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The dream of the Earth

Thomas Berry, an American monk of the Passionist monastic tradition, wrote an essay under an oak tree by the Hudson in 1988 titled, *The Dream of the Earth*, which would evolve into a book. Sierra Club printed the paperback edition of the book two years later to broaden the readership of this seminal work.

In the book, Berry invites 21st century homo sapiens to reconsider their then current image of the planet Earth as a programmed machine like a calibrated clock emerging from the physics of Bacon and hypothesized by Newton and Descartes, to the emergent view of an awesome and enchanting organism portrayed by contemporary particle physics—a universe that is dynamically alive: a whole system, fluid and interconnected.

An avid cultural historian who takes current technological civilization seriously, Berry calls for us to experience creation with awe like our forebears did before we made Earth simply as a quarry and a pit for our extractive industries; to see the Earth as a living organism upon which the survival and sustenance of the human race and the earth community depend, as a source of wonder and delight rather than as a commodity for our personal and corporate use.

Author Peter Russell in 1983 wrote a book titled *The Global Brain Awakens* where he notes that the Earth as a superorganism has humanity for its brain. Unfortunately, he says, the brain has become cancerous.

In 1972, the first comprehensive survey of the Earth, its resources, and its rate of use by humans, resulted in the publication of *The Limits to Growth: A Report for the Club of Rome's Project on the Predicament of Humankind*, vilified for its perceived pessimistic forecast which, however, have proven to be not too far from the truth.

Now even the oil companies acknowledge that we have the situation called “peak oil,” the point at which we consume half of the known oil supply, and any extraction thereafter would only be to lessen the remaining 50 percent of the supply. We have now reached that peak point and the remaining supply not only has to feed into existing economies that are geared for growth, it will also have to feed the requirements of emerging industrial giants like China and India. The price of oil is not coming down ever again.

My students ask why the turmoil around the world? Simple. Oil and who will control the supply. Name any oil producing region (even Timor has natural gas that is now a bone of contention between the new nation and its known backer, Australia) and it is the battleground of greed and terror.

Thomas Berry is not one to despair, nor is he wishy-washy about measures to undertake. In a culmination of a lifetime of clear-headed, clear-hearted reflections, he boldly calls on everyone to participate in *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*. That work has two strokes for humanity: cease being a disruptive force in the natu-

ral world, and be a benign presence to the planet.

Even a local livestock farm owner in a remote area of Northern Leyte, Philippines, understands that the ethical challenge of the day demands of him to turn his 333 acre farm, which had supported and sustained his family, back into forest stand to regain the ecological integrity of his region.

I read with bewilderment John Gourley's opposition to the NMI Marine National Monument (PEW Monument) being proposed by the PEW Foundation. To be sure, his opposition is based on his long-term involvement in the marine science and environmental regulatory fields and his personal belief in supporting sustainable fisheries programs. But that might precisely be the point: sustainable fisheries understood simple as profit bottom line economics and coupled by a mistaken notion of stewardship based on paper sovereignty, and one can understand where he is coming from. Who cares about the transmigration patterns of fish life and the depleted ocean stock now prevailing? How do we audit the debit inflicted on Mother Nature's processes now that we have overfished the seas?

Cinta Kaipat suffered virulent criticism for her efforts to rationalize the extractive industry associated with the pozzolan deposit in Pagan. But when the rationale for a possible source of revenue is simply determined by opportunistic market forces, then we have a formula for future debacle.

Beautify CNMI would not hold the imagination of the many were it simply a recycling and neighborhood cleanup program. Without a transcendent vision of the ethics and aesthetics of the planet, the movement would only be another short-live spurt in the tableau of tree hugging idealists. Happily it isn't, and there is evidence that what the ancients would call “earth spirit” abounds in the fellowship.

Recently, I traveled through villages and city centers in Jiangsu Province in China where rapid industrialization has evidently been occurring. I stayed where there possibly was a commune at one time where an estuary that might have hosted duck farms and vegetable gardens is now just a filthy estuary turned dumping ground clogged with plastic products.

Yet, nearby are huge structures that are being built to house industrial factories and manufacturing concerns. That the industrialization is sputtering is evident in the number of such structures already built but unoccupied. Taking the land route from Shanghai to Yancheng and Sheyang, and returning the roundabout way through Nanjing and the superhighway through Suzhou, the dislocation of labor and dysfunctionality of farms is there to behold.

Sustainable economy goes beyond the preoccupation with the bottom line of profit and economic growth. It must factor the health of the planet and its communities. The activity of delivering electricity and water has to be exercised like a sacred duty.

Pope Benedict who at this writing is celebrating the Mass at the

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



Yankee stadium in New York, earlier this week addressed the United Nations General Assembly with this words: “International action to preserve the environment and to protect various forms of life on Earth must not only guarantee a rational use of technology and science, but must also rediscover the authentic image of creation.”

The authentic image of creation is that of a living organism, and our strict dichotomy between inanimate and animate objects no longer applies. The planet and its component parts throb with the songs of the spheres, and Einstein's insight holds: a falling leaf reverberates across the universe.

His Holiness' message during the World Day of Peace early this year affirmed the Earth as the human family's home. He said, “For the human family, this home is the Earth, the environment that God the Creator has given us to inhabit with creativity and responsibility. We need to care for the environment: it has been entrusted to men and women to be protected and cultivated with responsible freedom, with the good of all as a constant guiding criterion.”

Yet, all of this is academic unless the Earth becomes also the locus of human spirit definition. Thich Nhat Hanh, the Vietnamese Buddhist monk, wrote, Call Me By My True Names, and says: “Our Earth is somehow like a small boat. Yes, compared to other big things in the cosmos, it is a very small boat, and it is in danger of sinking. We need...a person to inspire us with calm confidence, to tell us what to do. And who is that person? The Mahayana Buddhist Sutras tell you one thing: You are that person. If you are yourself, if you are your best, then you are that person. And it is only with such a person, calm, lucid, aware, solid, that our situation could be avoided.”

That's why Beautify CNMI, or any other movements, stand a real chance for as long as it calls forth individuals who understand themselves as THAT PERSON. In this Earth Day 2008, we can be frontline foddors for all the cleanups needed; we could also begin to empathize with the health of the environment that is reflected in the food we eat and the dwellings we choose to habituate; we may begin to appropriate the profundity of the scientific, urban and secular revolutions of our time, but most importantly, in the transcendent and immanent traditions of the ancients, we can embody the spirit of Gaia on ourselves. Earth Day is finally ME!

Letters to the Editor

Closing the Hollywood

I have been sitting in my home here in Florida, now safely outside the zone of destruction created by the imploding archipelago once known as the Northern Mariana Islands, still trying to offer helpful suggestions and still working to secure a viable change in how electricity is generated in the CNMI, at least on Tinian.

But it's fast becoming a useless and frustrating case in pointless rhetoric. No one listens. No one acts. And, it seems, not a single person in the Legislature, and more especially the Governor's Office, is working together to proffer local solutions to alleviate any

of the problems now forcing the CNMI down the slippery slope into the abyss. All have their own “better idea”: a few good, a lot very, very bad and NONE aimed at basic solutions. Without a clue as to what to do, much less how to do it, current “leaders” are left simply pointing the finger at each other and placing all the blame on “external forces.”

Do you really think these “external forces” are acting solely toward the destruction of the CNMI alone? Well, they're not; they do act on the rest of the world at large—and most of the rest of the world is changing to cope with it; the CNMI is not. Over a

hundred bills and “resolutions” introduced in the Legislature, and all but ONE will do *nothing* to improve the people's standard of life in the CNMI! Many, in fact, will only help speed up the slide into oblivion.

Case in point: Hollywood Theaters announced it is closing due to high operating expenses and low attendance. Governor's “solution”? Charge higher ticket prices! This has to be one of the more idiotic pieces of folderol yet. And that is just about nothing. Even CUC is a pointless exercise in fatalism without a clue.

It is simple basic economics that businesses with a high overhead and engaged in providing more or less “luxury” items or services cannot long exist in a situation where the buying public can't even afford the basic ne-

cessities of life. As people's budgets become more and more strained and they begin to wonder where the next real meal will come from, there is little interest in such things as cake for desert, thousand dollar dresses, movies in a theater or a night on the town. This is especially true for the theater when you can wait a few days or weeks and rent the movie from your neighborhood video store for a tenth the price of a night at the movies.

It may not make much difference anyway if no one has power in the home to run the TV or CD player—but then neither would the movie house. And just how much would a ticket cost to cover the expenses of operating the “house” and showing a first run movie for the four or five people who might be fortunate enough to have the extra

money for such an extravaganza? And what about the moviegoer wannabees on Tinian? There hasn't been a movie theater there in 50 years!

The people of the CNMI are used to waiting for things; after all, they've been waiting for 30 years for a Governor to come along with something coming from the mouth besides a surgically implanted, everlasting “smile” and the same empty promise. It has been said by many wise persons that “People will not notice when you kick them in the ass as long as you do it with a smile on your face.” That system has been perfected in the CNMI during the last two years—and *the people still wait*.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle, Jr.
Formerly of San Jose, Tinian

WELCOME

From Page 10

tapped to drive electricity generating turbines. They wanted to place it facing into the prevailing seas direction up in Marpi. Back then \$45 million would have bought the system, but would undoubtedly cost a lot more now.

The lure was 10 cent per kilowatt power generation payback until the system was paid for then 3 cents per

kilowatt cost from then on. Compared to our current costs of 41cents commercial and 25 cents (17 this month, maybe) residential it sounds pretty darned good. The question is: Is it still a viable alternative? Is this a real possibility, or just a pipe dream? Having been spurned 15 years ago would Siemens be willing to make another proposal? Someone should take the lead and start checking into this alternative as we look at ways to make our power stay on 24/7 and be affordable. Who

will step up to the plate?

■ ■ ■

Fire safety

New regulations will soon require business owners to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy from DPW requiring safety checks and adherence to the Uniform Building Code as before, plus a newly created Certificate of Compliance issued after inspections by DPS Fire Division to ensure compliance with the Uniform Fire Code and the CNMI Fire Safety Code.

Pursuant to Public Law 11-56 the new inspections and Certificates will be implemented soon at a proposed cost of \$25 for the 1st inspection and additional fees for the certificate itself and for more inspections if a passing mark is not met the first time.

DPS will interact and educate the business public with seminars held at the Rotary Club, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and other venues. Improved fire safety and prevention measures help ensure that all of us

are less likely to be victims of fire. If you have ever seen or known a burn victim, as I have, you will be more aware of fire safety and be willing to do most anything to prevent it happening to you, your loved ones or the general public.

■ ■ ■






Quote of the Week: We should try to be the parents of our future rather than the offspring of our past.

—Miguel de Unamuno, writer and philosopher (1864-1936)

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

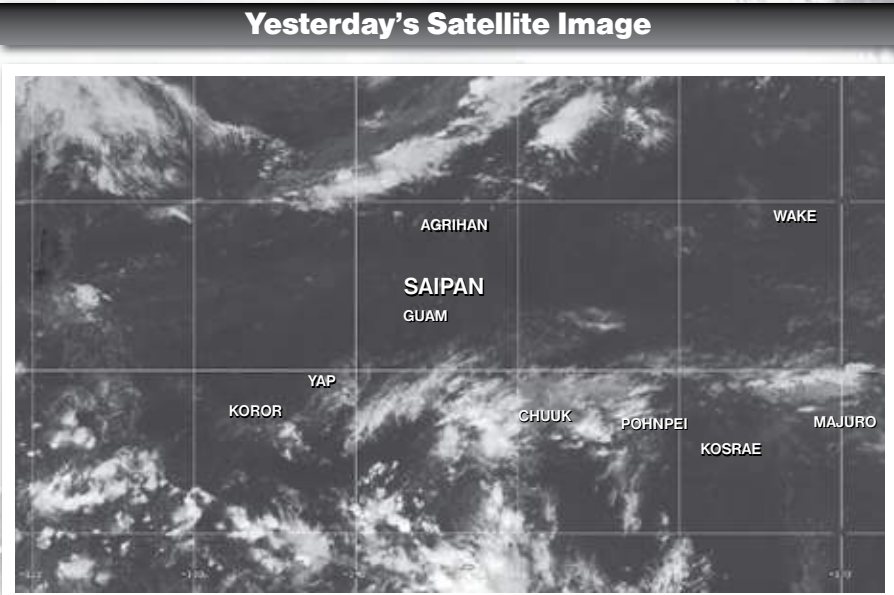
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲82° ▼76°	▲83° ▼75°	▲83° ▼75°	▲83° ▼76°	▲83° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲84 ▼75
Palau	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼73
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼75

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲64 ▼54
Beijing	Cloudy	▲66 ▼41
Hong Kong	Showers	▲82 ▼70
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲81 ▼72
London	Partly Sunny	▲57 ▼49
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲72 ▼54
Manila	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼57
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲83 ▼67
New York	Partly Sunny	▲63 ▼50
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲68 ▼56
Paris	Rain	▲57 ▼48
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲68 ▼51
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲59 ▼50
Salem	Showers	▲54 ▼42
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲64 ▼51
Seoul	Rain	▲70 ▼50
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲64 ▼51
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲63 ▼53

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
2:55AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
7:53AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:06PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:55PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:45PM, MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak cold front extends southwestward from 25N150E to 21N145E then continues as a warm front to 20N131E and back northwestward to beyond 24N130E. Extensive cloudiness, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 75 miles of the cold front and scattered showers are up to 250 miles north of the warm front. A near-equatorial trough reaches eastward from 3N130E to beyond 1N135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found southwest of Palau, southwest of a line from 3N130E to EQ135E. Upper air divergence is enhancing a surface trough and the two features are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from the equator to 10N between 140E and 152E. Chuuk is on the northeastern fringe of this area which is well south of Guam. Trade wind convergence enhanced by upper air divergence is producing scattered showers over Kosrae and south of Kwajelein from 160E to 170E between 2N and 9N. More scattered showers are found over Majuro from 170E and 180 between 5N and 10N.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:59AM	6:33PM	Today	8:05PM	6:46AM
Wednesday	5:58AM	6:33PM	Wednesday	8:57AM	7:29PM
Thursday	5:57AM	6:33PM	Thursday	9:50PM	8:16AM
Friday	5:57AM	6:33PM	Friday	10:41PM	9:07AM
Saturday	5:56AM	6:34PM	Saturday	11:30PM	9:59AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008			
DEPARTURES		ARRIVALS	
Saipan-Rota		Rota-Saipan	
CO 9313	8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	CO 9598	11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam		Guam-Saipan	
CO9317	4:00am 4:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am 3:20am Daily
CO9597	8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6	CO9596	7:00am 7:50am Daily
CO9313	8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota	CO9598	10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm 1:20pm Daily	CO9600	10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7
CO9603	3:30pm 4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm 2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm 7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm 5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita		Narita-Saipan	
NW 078	8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya	NW 076	10:15am 2:50pm Daily
NW 075	4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	NW 077	6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka		Osaka-Saipan	
NW 083	4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	NW 084	10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya		Nagoya-Saipan	
NW 078	8:40am 11:25am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila		Manila-Saipan	
CO 895	4:45pm 6:35pm 6	CO 890	9:15am 2:55pm 6
CO 895	6:45pm 8:35pm 3	CO 890	11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul		Seoul-Saipan	
OZ 604	2:20am 6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7
OZ 604	2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm 1:10am+1 7
OZ 606	3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	OZ 603	8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan		Busan-Saipan	
OZ 608	3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila		Manila-Guam	
CO 891	6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror	CO 894	11:20am 4:55pm 2,7
CO 893	6:30am 8:05am 6	CO 894	7:45pm 1:20am+1 6
CO 893	8:25am 10:00am 2,7	CO 892	9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap
CO 893	5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm 8:40pm Daily	CO 934	10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou		Guanzhou-Saipan	
CZ 3008	5:00am 8:00am 2,6	CZ 3007	8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong		Hongkong-Guam	
CO 909	6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	CO 910	10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota		Rota-Guam	
CO 9598	10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	CO 9313	9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Skype to sell unlimited calls for \$9.95/month

NEW YORK (AP)—Skype, the Internet calling subsidiary of eBay Inc., is introducing its first plan for unlimited calls to overseas phones on Monday.

The plan will allow unlimited calls to land-line phones in 34 countries for \$9.95 per month, said Don Albert, vice president and general manager for Skype North America.

The countries encompassed include most of Europe, plus Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, China, Singapore, Taiwan, Japan, Korea and Malaysia.

Calls to domestic land lines and cell phones are included as well, as are calls to cell phones

in Canada, China, Hong Kong and Singapore, but not cell phones in other countries.

Skype has already been selling unlimited calls to the U.S. and Canada for \$3 a month. It is expanding that offering with another plan, for \$5.95 per month, that gives free calls to Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey, and a discount on calls to other places in Mexico.

Skype is generally used as a software application running on a computer equipped with a microphone and speakers or a headset. But subscribers will also have the option to call a local number from their phones and be connected to interna-

tional numbers that fall under their plan, paying only local access charges or using their cell-phone airtime.

Unlimited international calling plans have been popping up in recent years from hardware-based phone services like Vonage International Holdings Corp. and cable companies, but the prices are generally higher, and the plans are add-ons to basic calling plans that cost even more.

Skype said its subscribers called phones for 1.7 billion minutes in the first three months of the year, compared with 14.2 billion minutes used in computer-to-computer sessions, which are free.

Amid strong farm economy, some worry about high debt

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—At a time of record agricultural profits, concerns are mounting that American farmers could be edging toward a financial crisis not seen since the 1980s farm-economy collapse.

Soaring land values, increasing debt and a reliance on government subsidies for ethanol production have prompted economists to warn that what some describe as a golden age of agriculture could come to a sudden end. At risk are the livelihoods of thousands of farmers, the health of hundreds of banks and the vitality of an agricultural industry that has been

one of the nation's few economic bright spots in recent months.

"We're in a very risky time, and yet we don't seem concerned about that risk nearly as much as we should be," said Barry L. Flinchbaugh, an agricultural economist at Kansas State University.

The potential problem, economists said, is that strong demand for corn and other grains has caused prices to reach historic highs. That has led to record farmland values and steadily increasing debt as farmers borrow money to buy more land, finance the higher

costs of fertilizer and seed and upgrade their equipment.

As long as the demand remains, good times for farmers should continue. But if demand falls, they could find themselves in a situation reminiscent of the early 1980s when the farm economy largely crumbled.

Among factors that could affect demand would be a change in the federal government's policy on ethanol subsidies, now estimated at about \$6 billion a year, revisions in the farm bill that would lower support payments or an increase in the dollar's value, which would hurt exports.

OPEC chief: Oil prices would go higher

ROME (AP)—OPEC Secretary-General Abdullah el al-Badri said Sunday oil prices would likely go higher and that the group was ready to raise production if the price pressure was due to a shortage of supply—something he doubted.

"Oil prices, there is a common understanding that has nothing to do with supply and demand," al-Badri said on the sidelines of an energy conference in Rome.

Oil prices reached a new high Friday at \$117 a barrel.

A host of supply and demand concerns in the U.S. and abroad, along with the dollar's weakness, have served to support prices, even as record retail gasoline prices in the U.S. appear to be dampening demand. Crude prices have risen as much as 4 percent last week.

The OPEC chief said the Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries "will not hesitate" to increase production if the group thought the higher prices were due to shortages.

But he said more oil will not solve the high prices.

OPEC's production levels were just one of many factors, he said.

"But how much higher it will go, of course it depends on a number of things: the political situation, whether there is a natural catastrophe, whether there are speculations in the market, whether there are strikes in certain producing countries. So there are many other factors other than OPEC production," al-Badri said.

Manufacturers cautious about job growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—The massive cranes slicing the skies over Brazil, Dubai and China can't come off the assembly lines fast enough at Manitowoc Co.'s manufacturing plants here and overseas.

But an insatiable global appetite doesn't mean the Wisconsin-based heavy equipment maker is boosting its payrolls.

The company last year added about 1,000 workers to

bring its total to 11,000 but has no plans to repeat that hiring binge as recessionary effects play out here and abroad, said Eric Etchart, president and general manager of Manitowoc's crane segment. At best, Manitowoc may make some temporary employees permanent this year to help deplete a \$2.88 billion crane backlog, up about 81 percent from 2006.

Manitowoc's growing export

strength is matched by its increasing caution at home—a position mimicked by U.S. manufacturers steeling themselves for recessionary reality.

The weak dollar, combined with rapid industrial growth in Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe, has boosted exports of construction and agricultural equipment, and raw materials such as aluminum and steel.



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- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Computer literate and with driver's license.

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Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

18-year-old SC student accused of plotting to bomb school

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Authorities say an 18-year-old South Carolina student is behind bars after collecting the supplies needed to bomb his school. Bryan Schillenberger was arrested Saturday after his parents called police when 10 pounds of ammonium nitrate was delivered to their home in Chesterfield. Police Chief Randall Lear says the teen planned to make several bombs. Lear says he had all the supplies needed to kill dozens of people at Chesterfield High. Lear says a journal Schillenberger kept for more than a year had detailed plans, including maps of the school. Lear says the teen does not have attorney.

Family of contractor: Another body found in Iraq

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The family of a contractor kidnapped in Iraq said Sunday that U.S. officials have notified them they've found a body that could be his. The family of Jonathon Cote said on the Web site Free Cote that an unidentified sixth body has been recovered near Basra, in southern Iraq. Cote was one of six Western contractors kidnapped in two separate incidents. The Getzville, N.Y., resident was working in Kuwait for Crescent Security Group when he and four colleagues were abducted in November 2006. Their disappearance received new attention last month when the severed fingers of several men were sent to the U.S. military in Iraq, followed by the discovery of two bodies. The body will be flown to Dover Air Force Base, where it will be identified and an autopsy performed, according to the Web site.

Obama says McCain would be better than Bush

READING, Pa. (AP)—Democrat Barack Obama, who often argues that John McCain is the same as President Bush, said Sunday that the Republican presidential candidate would be better for the country than Bush has been. "You have a real choice in this election. Either Democrat would be better than John McCain," Obama said to cheers from a rowdy crowd in central Pennsylvania. Then he said: "And all three of us would be better than George Bush." Obama was trying to argue that he is the better choice over Democratic rival Hillary Rodham Clinton in Tuesday's primary in Pennsylvania. But the Illinois senator ended up mixing in praise for McCain at the same time—and giving Clinton an opening to criticize. "We need a nominee who will take on John McCain, not cheer on John McCain," the New York senator said in Johnstown.

Secretive sect unleashes public relations crusade

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—Before authorities raided their west Texas retreat, members of a secretive polygamous church spent decades holding as tightly to their intense privacy as the Scriptures guiding their way of life.

Contact with outsiders was limited. Media inquiries were rejected with either stone-faced silence or a polite "no comment."

But after Texas officials removed 416 children belonging to members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the sect fired up the public relations machine.

From newspaper stories to appearances on morning network television, "Larry King Live" and "Oprah," FLDS women are speaking publicly about the heartbreak of being separated from their children and sharing some details of their life.

"This was just such a heinous thing that the normal rules didn't apply," said Rod Parker, a Salt Lake City attorney serving as a spokesman for the church. "What we were trying to do was inject a human element into what was happening here. Put names to faces and not just

think of these people as being so different."

State officials raided the ranch April 3 after a domestic violence hotline call from a 16-year-old girl who alleged she was trapped inside the private retreat and had been physically and sexually abused by her much older husband.

The public relations campaign began a more than a week later, when many FLDS women who had been allowed to remain with their children in state shelters were bused back to their 1,700-acre ranch.

Within an hour, church leaders threw open a pair of normally locked gates, launching a two-day media blitz. Cameras and reporters have had tours of the grounds and peeks inside the sect's homes and a church school.

And while the message seems clearly targeted, the decision was less calculated than it may seem, Parker said.

"It was a spur-of-the-moment decision to do this. It was literally made as we were standing at the gate," said Parker, who has handled civil and criminal court matters for the FLDS since 1990.

Benedict praises US church as visit ends



Pope Benedict XVI greets people in the crowd as he celebrates a Mass at Yankee Stadium, in New York on Sunday, April 20, 2008.

NEW YORK (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Mass and American Catholicism in storied Yankee Stadium on Sunday, telling his massive U.S. flock to use its freedoms wisely as he closed out his first papal trip to the United States.

Benedict beamed before a joyous crowd of 57,000, hours after making a solemn stop to pray at the site of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

He called the Mass "a summons to move forward with

firm resolve to use wisely the blessings of freedom, in order to build a future of hope for coming generations."

And he repeated a core message of his six-day pilgrimage—that faith must play a role in public life, citing the need to

Obama reports \$51M to start April, as McCain raises \$15M



WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack

Obama raised \$41 million in March and had \$42 million available to spend against Democratic rival Hillary Rodham Clinton in April, campaign finance reports filed Sunday show.

Clinton aides said late Sunday she would report raising about \$20 million in March and that she had more than \$8 million for the primary available at the beginning of April.

Overall, Obama had \$51 million in the bank at the end of March, with nearly \$9 million of that available only for the general election.

The money positioned Obama to undertake an expensive April campaign in Pennsylvania, where he has outspent Clinton and cut into her lead. Pennsylvania votes on Tuesday.

Obama's fundraising in March led all candidates, but was still lower than the mark he set in February, when he raised more than \$55 million. He has raised \$235 million in his campaign.

Clinton was expected to file her report with the Federal Election Commission by the midnight deadline.

Republican John McCain's report showed he raised \$15.2 million and had \$11.6 million in the bank. The Arizona senator's March figures were his best fundraising performance of the campaign.

Obama spent \$30.6 million

in March—a month that began with tough contests for the Illinois senator in Ohio and Texas. He lost the popular vote to Clinton in both state primaries even though he outspent her, but he emerged with more del-

spend money in March for ads in Pennsylvania and Indiana, which votes May 6. But he held off on most of his big ad spending until April, permitting him to build up his cash on hand.

Obama reported owing more



Obama



Clinton



McCain

egates in Texas.

His report showed he spent \$9 million on media advertising, an amount mostly spent in final days before the March 4 Ohio and Texas primaries. Obama did

than \$660,000 to various vendors. Beside advertising, his other major expenses were nearly \$5 million in telemarketing and \$3.6 million for travel and lodging.

Shootings in NJ kill 1 and wound 2

IRVINGTON, N.J. (AP)—A gunman shot a driver stopped at a traffic light and killed a pedestrian early Sunday, and the same man may be responsible for the shooting of a police sergeant in his patrol car, authorities said.

The three shootings took place within minutes in the same general area of Irvington, in northern New Jersey, around 3 a.m. Sunday, said Paul Loriquet, Essex County prosecutor's office spokesman.

Police later accused Shaquan Johnson, 27, of Newark of shooting the police officer, and authorities were investigating his possible involvement in the other two shootings.

The gunman first drove up

to a vehicle stopped at a traffic light, according to a police news release. He spoke with the driver, a 23-year-old man from Bridgeport, Conn., before shooting him several times.

The gunman continued driving and shot to death Gary Farrar Jr., 22, a Rutgers University student walking on a sidewalk, police said.

A man then passed an Irvington police patrol car, backed up and told the sergeant inside, a 24-year police veteran, that a shooting had just taken place, police said. He then drew his gun and shot the sergeant.

The Connecticut man drove himself to a hospital in Newark,

oppose abortion.

The unwavering truth of the Roman Catholic message, he said, guarantees respect for the dignity of all "including the most defenseless of all human beings, the unborn child in the mother's womb." The crowd applauded the line.

Worshippers filled the seats, chanting, clapping and waving white and yellow handkerchiefs in the Vatican's colors as the white popemobile pulled in. At the end of the service the German-born Benedict again processed out slowly, serenaded by the strains of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy."

Outside the stadium, two dump trucks filled with sand blockaded 161st Street before Mass, an extra level of security along with the heavy police presence. Pilgrims without tickets pushed up against metal police barricades, hoping to get a glimpse of the arriving pope.

Inside, ad-splashed outfield walls were draped in white with purple and yellow bunting. A white altar perched over second base, and the papal seal covered the pitcher's mound, suspended by white and yellow ribbons.

In keeping with his trend, California was Obama's go-to fundraising state, generating nearly \$4.6 million in contributions in March. New York was next with nearly \$3.2 million.

Clinton spokesman Jay Carson said \$15 million of Clinton's \$20 million was raised over the Internet. He said the campaign has raised \$60 million over the Internet since Jan. 1. The surge of online support suggests she is attracting more small-dollar donors, but contributors who give larger amounts could also be encouraged to give online.

The March figures do not include the \$2.5 million she raised last week at an Elton John concert in New York. Carson said the event's total sum included money from 6,000 new donors.

and an ambulance took the sergeant to a hospital. The sergeant was treated and released.

Law enforcers stopped a sport utility vehicle that Johnson was driving at about 9:30 a.m. The vehicle was similar to the one witnesses saw leaving the scene of the officer's shooting, Loriquet said.

Johnson was initially was arrested on drug possession charges but later charged with aggravated assault on a police officer, two weapons offenses and possession of hollow point bullets.

He was being held Sunday night in jail on \$500,000 bail. Loriquet didn't know whether Johnson had a lawyer.

Asia

Nepal authorizes deadly force to stop Olympic torch protests

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepalese soldiers and police guarding the slopes of Mount Everest are authorized to shoot to stop any protests during China's Olympic torch run to the summit, an official said Sunday.

Chinese climbers plan to take the torch to the summit of Everest—the world's highest peak on the border between Nepal and Tibet—in the first few days of May. During that time, other climbers

will be banned from the mountain's higher elevations.

Police and soldiers "have been given orders to stop any protest on the mountain using whatever means necessary, including use of weapons," Nepal's Home Ministry spokesman Modraj Dotel said, adding that the use of deadly force was authorized only as a last resort.

The troops will first try to persuade protesters to leave and

will arrest those who don't. If demonstrators defy all nonviolent means of restraint, troops have the option of using their weapons, such as in cases where a large group cannot be corralled. It was unclear if the protesters would have to attack or become violent before force was authorized.

Twenty-five soldiers and policemen have already established several camps on the

mountain, Dotel said, adding that more troops could be sent if needed.

The torch relay—the longest in Olympic history—was meant to highlight China's rising economic and political power. But activists have seized on it as a platform to protest China's human rights record. It has drawn particular ire from those denouncing China's rule in Tibet following a crackdown on

demonstrations in the Himalayan region in March.

Tibetan exiles have protested almost daily in the Nepalese capital of Katmandu in front of the United Nations office and the Chinese Embassy against Beijing's rule over the region.

The United Nations and international rights groups have criticized Nepal for using what they say is excessive force to stop the demonstrations. Police

have beaten protesters with batons and dragged them through streets while detaining them.

There are already dozens of mountaineers on Everest for the popular spring climbing season. Climbers spend weeks acclimatizing and making practice runs up the slopes before attempting the 29,035-foot summit.

They will be barred from going above Camp 2 at 21,300 feet until the Chinese finish their torch run.

Olympic flame arrives in Malaysia for KL relay

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The Olympic flame arrived in Malaysia on Sunday ahead of a relay in which it will be guarded by 1,000 police watching for protests against China's Tibet crackdown and human rights record.

The flame arrived from Bangkok on a plane dedicated to carry it to all 19 international

destinations on the torch relay before it lands in Beijing for the Olympic Games' opening ceremony in August.

A Buddhist group held special prayers Sunday at a temple in Kuala Lumpur to call for a trouble-free run of the torch Monday and a peaceful Olympics.

Some 300 Chinese students studying in Malaysia greeted

the flame at the airport along with representatives from the National Sports Council and the police, a statement from Olympic Council of Malaysia said.

The flame was taken to a luxury hotel in downtown Kuala Lumpur ahead of Monday's relay run starting at near-Independence Square.

China urges calm after anti-Western demonstrations

BEIJING (AP)—Fresh anti-Western protests flared in several Chinese cities Sunday as people vented anger over pro-Tibet demonstrations along the Olympic torch relay. State media appealed for calm in an apparent attempt to dampen the nationalistic fervor.

Over the weekend, protesters waving Chinese flags have ral-

lied in front of the French Embassy in Beijing and at outlets of French retailer Carrefour in nine cities across the country. They have threatened boycotts of the retailer, whom they accuse of supporting the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader—a charge Carrefour denies.

A front-page editorial in the People's Daily newspaper, the

official mouthpiece for the Chinese Communist Party, called for calm, urging people to cherish patriotism "while expressing it in a rational way."

"As citizens, we have the responsibility to express our patriotic enthusiasm calmly and rationally and express patriotic aspiration in an orderly and legal manner," the commentary said.



Buddhist monks walk for special prayers at a temple in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Sunday, April 20, 2008. AP

2 bombs explode in Myanmar's Yangon

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Two bombs exploded Sunday in the largest city of the military-ruled country, witnesses said, but no casualties were immediately reported.

The witnesses, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of official reprisal, said the first blast occurred on a downtown Yangon street at around 8 p.m. The second blast occurred about an hour later on a different street near the luxurious Traders Hotel, they said.

No further details were immediately available, and there were no immediate claims of responsibility. The government has not blamed any group.

The roads were immediately blocked off by security and riot police.

A car was damaged in the first blast and residents heard a loud noise, eyewitnesses said. Some witnesses said a small bomb was hidden underneath the car. Residents in the area said the second blast also came from underneath a car.

The United Nations estimates at least 31 people were killed and thousands more detained in September when Myanmar's government crushed peaceful pro-democracy demonstrations.

Myanmar, also known as Burma, has been in a political stalemate since 1990 when Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won a

general election but was not allowed to take power by the military, which continues to tightly control the country.

Suu Kyi, who is currently under house arrest, has been in detention without trial for more than 12 of the past 18 years.

The military junta announced in February that it will hold a constitutional referendum in May and a general election in 2010. It marks the first time since the 1990 elections that Myanmar's people have been allowed any kind of vote.

Aquino appears on TV, says ready to accept God's will

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Former Philippine President Corazon Aquino made her first television appearance since she was diagnosed with colon cancer a month ago, saying she is ready to accept God's will and that she has been feeling no pain.

"I really am fortunate. I have no pain," the frail-looking 75-year-old Aquino said while answering questions on a popular entertainment show with her daughter Kris and grandchild James on Sunday.

"I just get tired easily. So I guess whatever the Lord wants, I am prepared to accept," she said with teary eyes and quivering voice.

The democracy icon, who swapped her traditional yellow for a red dress, thanked her "beloved countrymen" for praying for her recovery, saying she was "overwhelmed."

Aquino has been responding well to chemotherapy, and on

Saturday attended her grandson's birthday, daughter Kris said on ABS-CBN TV.

Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III said his mother had regained her appetite and even asked for Chinese food.

"We view her regaining her appetite as a very positive sign," he said in separate comments published Monday.

A humble housewife propelled to politics by the assassination of her husband, an opposition leader, in 1983, Aquino led a peaceful uprising in 1986 that toppled late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and became a harbinger of nonviolent protests around the world.

After stepping down in 1992, she has remained active in social and political causes. Most recently, she has been attending rallies calling for the resignation of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo over allegations of vote-rigging and corruption.



Aquino

ASIAN BRIEFS

Search expands for Chinese fishermen

BEIJING (AP)—Rescue officials expanded their search Sunday for 18 Chinese fishermen still missing after tropical storm Neoguri brushed over southern Hainan island this weekend. Five rescue ships and two helicopters have been deployed in the search mission, said an official with the Hainan provincial disaster relief office who gave his surname as Wu. Three fishing boats went missing in the storm and rescuers have so far found 44 of their crew, Wu said. He added that China has contacted officials in Vietnam and the Philippines to see whether ships from those countries had rescued any of the 18 men still missing. China's first typhoon of the year hit land Saturday afternoon but weakened to a tropical storm and moved into the western part of Guangdong province.

Crocodile kills man in wildlife sanctuary in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A crocodile attacked and killed a man who was under arrest for alleged illegal logging in Myanmar, the country's state-run newspaper reported Sunday. Myint Zaw was being transported by forest rangers in a boat in the Ayeyarwaddy river delta when the crocodile knocked him out of the boat and killed him, the Myanmar-language Kyemon daily reported. Myint Zaw and three other men were arrested last month for possession of mangrove trees believed to have been illegally cut from Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary, southwest of the country's biggest city, Yangon, the paper said. The men were being transferred to detention when the attack happened March 10, the paper said. No

other details were available.

Japan, South Korea resume summit talks

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's prime minister told the South Korean president Monday he wanted a new era in relations between their countries as the two resumed regular summit talks suspended three years ago amid a dispute over a Tokyo war shrine. Japan's Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda and South Korea's new President Lee Myung-bak were expected to discuss expanding business and culture exchanges and explore ways to step up cooperation on North Korea's nuclear disarmament. The two countries agreed to hold annual summits in 2004, but South Korea suspended them in 2005 to protest then-Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's repeated visits to a Tokyo war shrine criticized as a symbol of Japanese militarism.

Anwar's party to start paper in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The Malaysian government plans to give opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's political party a permit to start its own newspaper as part of reforms to allow more press freedom, according to news reports Sunday. The Star daily quoted Home Minister Syed Hamid Albar as saying there was no reason the People's Justice Party should not have its own newspaper when other political parties do. "I've just approved the (People's Justice Party) newspaper and I asked my officers 'why not.' I am open about it," he was quoted as saying. The announcement came days after the government suspended the license of a Tamil-language newspaper, which catered to some of Malaysia's ethnic Indians, accusing it of fomenting racial tensions.

World

Al-Sadr's followers refuse to disband militia

BAGHDAD (AP)—Followers of hardline cleric Muqtada al-Sadr raised the stakes Sunday in the showdown with Iraq's government, refusing to disband their militia. The U.S. military said 40 Shiite militants were killed in fierce fighting in southern Iraq.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, meanwhile, assured visiting Secretary of State Condoleezza

Rice that he will not back down in his confrontation with Shiite militias, even as mortar shells fired from Shiite areas struck the U.S.-protected Green Zone.

In a sign of that resolve, Iraqi soldiers took control Sunday of the last stronghold of al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia in the southern city of Basra, where an Iraqi offensive last month triggered the current wave of Shiite fighting.

Al-Maliki, a Shiite, has demanded that al-Sadr disband his Mahdi Army, the country's biggest Shiite militia, or his followers will not be allowed to run in provincial elections this fall.

Al-Sadr's followers, who control 30 of the 275 parliament seats, rejected that demand Sunday and instead called for an end to U.S.-Iraqi military operations in Sadr City, the Baghdad

stronghold of the Mahdi Army, and Shula, another Shiite district of the capital.

"All must know that disbanding the Mahdi Army means the end of al-Maliki's government," Sadrist lawmaker Fawzi Akram told reporters.

He called the government campaign against the Mahdi Army a "filthy military and media campaign" planned and

supported by the Americans. He urged the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and human rights groups to intervene.

"Random airstrikes, killings and bloodletting will not help but rather will increase hatred and enmity," he said, adding that if operations continue "all options are open for us."

That could include the for-

mal scrapping of a unilateral truce al-Sadr called last August—a move that American officials credit with helping dramatically reduce violence over the last year.

Since the Basra crackdown began March 25, that truce is in tatters, with fighting in the Baghdad area and scattered clashes still under way throughout the Shiite south.

Ex-bishop scores historic win in Paraguay

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP)—Former Roman Catholic bishop Fernando Lugo won a historic victory in Paraguay's presidential election Sunday, ending more than six decades of one-party rule with a mandate to help the nation's poor and indigenous.

His rival, Blanca Ovelar, conceded defeat after a closely fought race to lead this poor, agrarian nation where Ovelar's Colorado Party is the only ruling party most people have ever known.

News of the win by the gray-bearded Lugo, dubbed the "bishop of the poor," set off massive parties in cities across Paraguay with horn-honking caravans of cars blaring music. Others stamped on torn-down banners of the Colorado Party, which many Paraguayans blame for decades of corruption by political elites.

The triumph by Lugo's eclectic opposition alliance also marked the latest in a series of electoral wins by leftist, or center-left, leaders in South America.

"You have decided what has to be done in Paraguay. You have decided to be a free Paraguay. Thank you, thank you, all of you!" Lugo, 56, told tens of thousands of supporters in downtown Asuncion, as fireworks burst under a full moon.



Former Roman Catholic bishop Fernando Lugo, center right, and his running mate Federico Franco, center left, rise up their arms as they greet supporters in Asuncion, Sunday, April 20, 2008.

"Today, we have written a new chapter in our nation's political history."

Journalism student Andrea Ramirez, 19, waved a red-white-and-blue Paraguayan flag at the rally. "I voted for the first time and am very happy. The shameless and cynical ones have lost."

With about 13,000 of 14,000 balloting stations counted, officials said Lugo

had 41 percent of the vote, Ovelar had 31 percent and former army chief Lino Oviedo had 22 percent. Minor candidates accounted for the remaining votes.

Ovelar, a former education minister and protege of outgoing President Nicanor Duarte, conceded that she had lost after initially disputing exit poll results. She would have been Paraguay's first female president.

Turkey under fire over laws banning insults to Turkishness

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)—"Happy is he who says: 'I am a Turk.'"

Turkey's motto is on display in schools, hospitals and military barracks. Schoolchildren recite it like the Pledge of Allegiance. It covers hillsides in southeast Turkey, where the military is fighting Kurdish separatists.

This relentlessly patriotic message, coined by Kemal Ataturk, founder of modern Turkey, is backed up by law: a ban on insulting "Turkishness." But it has become a serious drag on Turkey's efforts to get its democracy into shape for joining the European Union. The EU says it's a restriction on free speech that disqualifies Turkey for membership.

On Friday, Parliament's justice panel began debating a government proposal to soften Article 301 of Turkey's penal code, which has been used to prosecute Nobel literature laureate Orhan Pamuk and other intellectuals.

Zimbabwe opposition claims 10 people die in postelection violence

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—An opposition leader said Sunday that 10 people have been killed in violence since last month's disputed presidential election and 3,000 families have been forced from their homes.

Tendai Biti, secretary-general of the Movement for Democratic Change, also said key members of the opposition's administration had been arrested along with more than 400 supporters.

Biti appealed to U.N. organizations present in Zimbabwe, saying the situation had escalated from a political crisis into a humanitarian one.

"They should move as a mat-

ter of urgency. They should move because Zimbabwe is a war zone," he told a news conference in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Zimbabweans are still awaiting results of the presidential election held three weeks ago alongside parliamentary voting. Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai claims he won the presidency outright and that the delay in reporting results is part of an attempt to steal the election by longtime President Robert Mugabe.

Biti said that violence since the March 29 elections had forced 3,000 families out of their homes. He said hundreds

of people had been hospitalized with injuries and 10 people killed.

It was impossible to verify the claims, although doctors groups inside Zimbabwe have reported an upsurge in injuries needing treatment in recent days. There was no official comment from the Zimbabwe government. Media restrictions make it impossible for journalists within the country to investigate the situation in rural areas.

In addition to the limbo surrounding the president race, the opposition's landmark victory in the parliamentary vote also was being called into question over the weekend.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN chief warns world must urgently increase food production

ACCRA, Ghana (AP)—The U.N. chief warned Sunday that the world must urgently increase food production to ease skyrocketing prices and pledged to set up a task force on a crisis threatening to destabilize developing nations. The cost of food has increased by around 40 percent since mid-2007 worldwide, and the strain has caused riots and protests in countries like Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Haiti and Egypt. "We must make no mistake, the problem is big. If we offer the right aid, the solutions will come," Ban said at the opening of a five-day U.N. conference on trade and development in Ghana's capital, Accra. "One thing is certain, the world has consumed more than it has produced" over the last three years, he said. Ban blamed a host of causes for the soaring cost of food, including rising oil prices, the fall of the U.S. dollar and natural disasters.

Israel to investigate death of Reuters cameraman in Gaza

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Israeli army announced Sunday it will investigate the killing of a cameraman for the Reuters news agency, after a human rights group said it found evidence suggesting that an Israeli tank crew fired recklessly or deliberately at the journalist. Cameraman Fadel Shana, 23, was killed in Gaza on Wednesday, the bloodiest day of fighting between Israeli troops and Gaza militants in a month. Just before his death, Shana was filming an Israeli tank in the distance, and his final footage shows the tank firing a shell in his direction. Palestinian medics said two teens wounded in Wednesday's shelling died of their wounds Sunday, bring the total number of Palestinians killed in the shelling to six. In all, 23 Palestinians were killed that day.

Rice visit to Iraq intended to promote gains

BAGHDAD (AP)—Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice mocked anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr as a coward on Sunday, hours after the radical leader threatened to declare war unless U.S. and Iraqi forces end a military crackdown on his followers. Rice, in the Iraqi capital to tout security gains and what she calls an emerging political consensus, said al-Sadr is content to issue threats and edicts from the safety of Iran, where he is studying. Al-Sadr heads an unruly militia that was the main target of an Iraqi government assault in the oil-rich city of Basra last month, and his future role as a spoiler is an open question. "I know he's sitting in Iran," Rice said dismissively, when asked about al-Sadr's latest threat to lift a self-imposed cease-fire with government and U.S. forces. "I guess it's all-out war for anybody but him," Rice said. "I guess that's the message; his followers can go to their deaths and he's in Iran."

Report: Britain seeks to abolish male royal succession law

LONDON (AP)—The British government is seeking to abolish an 18th century royal succession law that requires the daughter of a monarch to make way for her younger brother, a Sunday newspaper reported. Solicitor General Vera Baird was quoted by The Sunday Times as saying the 1701 law giving male heirs the right to succeed to the throne ahead of any older sisters was unfair and "a load of rubbish." The government is expected to use new equality legislation to guarantee women's succession rights, the Times report said. Queen Elizabeth II succeeded to the throne only because she had no brothers. When the queen's daughter, Princess Anne, was born, she was third in line to the throne, behind her mother—then Princess Elizabeth—and her brother Prince Charles.

Overdrive

Automakers view China as one of the top markets in world

BEIJING (AP)—Automakers issued ambitious forecasts Sunday of up to 65 percent sales growth in China's booming market this year—a striking contrast to the gloom in the United States and elsewhere.

Sales of some individual models to newly prosperous Chinese drivers soared by up to 100 percent in the first quarter over the same period of 2007, said executives speaking at the Beijing auto show.

Toyota Motor Corp. expects to sell 700,000 vehicles in China this year, up 40 percent from 2007, executive Yuzo Ushiyama said.

“As the 40 percent (target) is much bigger than the overall market growth, this is challenging,” Ushiyama told reporters. “But we want to try (700,000 vehicles) as our goal.”

Automakers are looking to China to drive sagging sales at a time when demand in the

United States is expected to decline this year while Europe and Japan are flat.

Sales in China, already the world's No. 2 vehicle market after the United States, are forecast to grow 15 to 20 percent this year, driven by a boom that saw the economy grow by 10.6 percent in the first quarter.

Last year, Chinese drivers bought 5.5 million cars, minivans and SUVs and 3 million

commercial vehicles, up from just 1.6 million vehicles sold in 1997. J.D. Power and Associates says sales should grow by 1 million vehicles annually through 2015.

“I think every year for some time in the future the same thing is going to happen,” said Philip Murtaugh, Chrysler LLC's chief executive for Asia.

The number of Chinese families that can afford a car is expected to mushroom from 10 million

in 2005 to 75 million in 2005, according to Jim Raymond, a General Motors executive.

The rivalry for a share of China's market has turned the Beijing auto show into a major industry event that this year drew more than 100 Chinese and foreign automakers. On Sunday, as companies held presentations for reporters, they competed for attention with live bands, acrobats and dancers. The show opens to

the public on Thursday.

On Sunday, Daimler CEO Dieter Zetsche was joined on stage by Chinese film star Zhang Ziyi as he showed off the new Mercedes-Benz SUV, the GLK, which goes on sale in China next year.

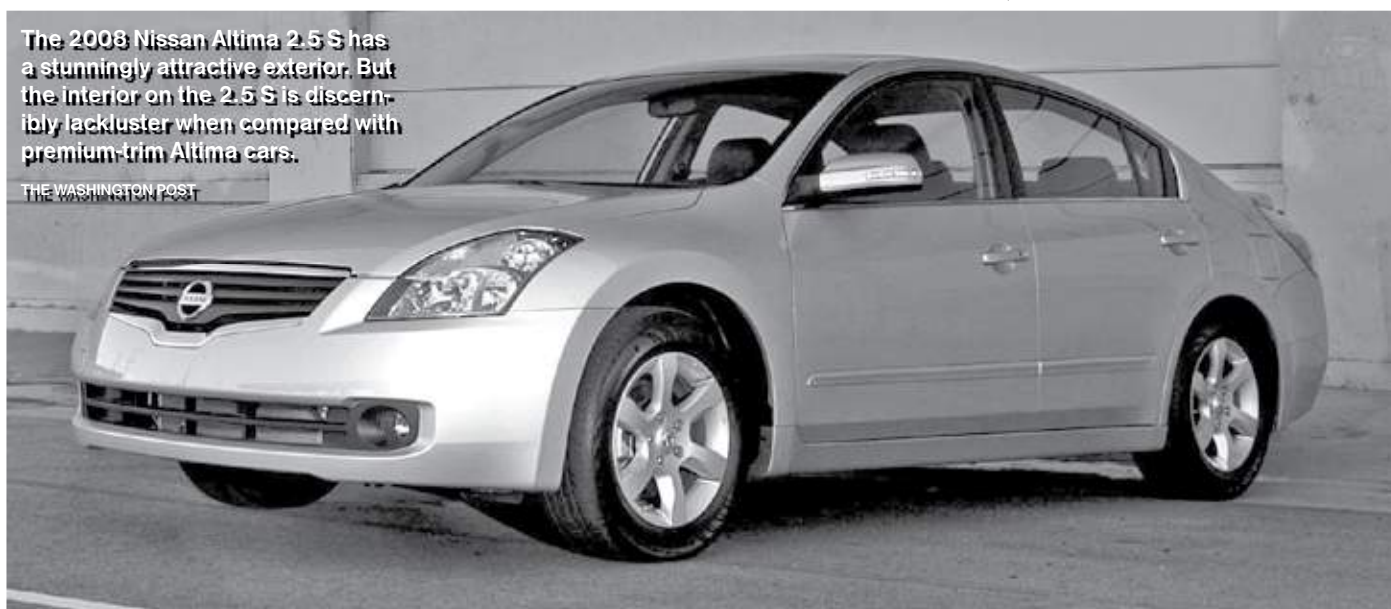
Major U.S., Japanese and European competitors are growing faster than the market as a whole, building market share at the expense of China's dozens of tiny automakers.

2008 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S

With a lesser Altima, something is missing

The 2008 Nissan Altima 2.5 S has a stunningly attractive exterior. But the interior on the 2.5 S is discernibly lackluster when compared with premium-trim Altima cars.

THE WASHINGTON POST



By **WARREN BROWN**
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—We've praised Nissan for its mostly impressive revitalization of the Nissan Altima sedan. We've lauded the company for its latent discovery that middle-class families deserve mid-size cars with attractive interiors. We have misspoken.

The problem is that Nissan offers 10 different styles in its Altima line. In the past, I and my associate, Ria Manglapus, have reviewed only the best of those—the splendid V-6 Altima 3.5 SE sedan with premium trim and the equally attractive, but less powerful, in-line four-cylinder

Altima 2.5 with SL premium appointments.

The upscale models made us feel good about the front-wheel-drive Altima. They tempted us to thumb our noses at perennial family sedan favorites—the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord.

We were giddy with excitement, convinced that Nissan executives had heard and heeded our longtime plea: “Hey, folks. The Altima's body looks good. But its interior is raggedy. Fix the interior. And while you're at it, give us a quieter car and a more compliant, but non-squishy suspension.”

Then we ventured into a lesser Altima—the 2008 2.5 S,

equipped with a 2.5-liter, 175-horsepower, inline four-cylinder engine and a continuously variable transmission (CVT).

We were disappointed.

But first, an aside:

Transmissions change the speed ratios between the engine and the drive wheels of a car or truck. Most of us in America are familiar with automatic transmissions, which do the job with a combination of toothed, planetary, fixed-ratio gears. An automatic transmission might have four, five, or—in the case of expensive models such as those produced by Mercedes-Benz—seven forward gears. Of course, there's always the reverse gear

for backing up.

The continuously variable transmission, an incredibly old idea reborn many times, does away with fixed gear ratios. Instead, many CVTs use a pulley system to allow infinite variability between the highest and lowest gears with no step-type shifts.

By eliminating those step-type shifts, CVTs eliminate work. By eliminating work, CVTs reduce the amount of energy needed to do work. By reducing the amount of energy needed to move a car or truck, CVTs—generally, theoretically—save fuel. That is why companies such as Nissan are turning toward CVTs today.

THE NUTS & BOLTS

By **WARREN BROWN**
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT

Ten styles are too many for one model line. Something is bound to give. Nissan should whittle Altima's 10 styles to a basic four — a 2.5 sedan and coupe with SL premium trim and a 3.5 SE coupe and sedan. Manual and automatic transmissions, including CVTs, should be offered in all trim levels.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

Stunningly attractive exterior. But the interior on the 2.5 S is discernibly lackluster when compared with premium-trim Altima cars.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

It gets average marks all around. There's nothing to cry about, little to applaud.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The 2008 Nissan Altima is a front-engine, front-wheel-drive, mid-size family sedan with a traditional notchback trunk.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION

The Altima 2.5 S comes with a 2.5-liter, 16-valve in-line four-cylinder engine that develops 175 horsepower at 5,600 revolutions per minute and 180 foot-pounds of torque at 3,000 rpm. The engine in the test car was mated to a continuously variable transmission. A six-speed manual transmission is available (and preferred by this column).

CAPACITIES

There are seats for five. Luggage capacity is 15.3 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 20 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE

We averaged 30 miles per gallon mostly in highway driving.

SAFETY

This one gets top frontal and side-impact crash ratings from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Four-wheel antilock brakes and side and head air bags are standard. Electronic stability and traction control were not available on the 2.5 S at this writing.

PRICE

Base price on the 2008 Altima 2.5 S with CVT is \$20,580. Dealer's invoice price on that model is \$19,392. Price as tested is \$23,590, including \$2,285 in options (splash guards; a power-operated glass top, called a moonroof in warmer climes and a sunroof in colder regions; 16-inch diameter alloy wheels, automatic on-off headlamps, eight-way power driver's seat, power windows and locks) and a \$625 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is \$21,989. This one comes with a consumer rebate of \$1,250. Prices sourced from Nissan, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

Compare with Chevrolet Malibu, Ford Fusion, Honda Accord, Hyundai Sonata, Kia Optima, Toyota Camry, Saturn Aura and Volkswagen Jetta.

CRUISIN'

1940 Panel Truck

By **GREG ZYLA**
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, I have a 1940 Ford Sedan Delivery Panel Truck with two doors in the back. I'd like to know how many were produced, and how many are left. I'd also like a ballpark figure of what my '40 Ford is worth.

I've owned it for 24 years, as I traded my '66 El Camino, title for title, for it, even though the Ford was a basket case when I brought it home. Currently, it has a 283 Chevy V-8 engine with 327

heads, a cam and a 350 Turbo Trans. It has a Chassis Engineering rear end with a Nova-style rear setup.

The interior is red crushed velour, and it has tinted windows, tilt wheel, sunroof, Cadillac taillights that are “frenched” in, and lots more. It has Lucas headlights and black cherry paint with clearcoat.

So what do you think it's worth?—Damon C., Marion, Ind.

A: Damon, in 1940, Ford produced just 2,160 Deluxe Sedan Deliveries. They all rode on a 112-inch wheelbase and came

with the popular 221 cubic-inch flathead V-8 that produced 85 horsepower. The transmission was a three-speed manual on the column.

However, your truck is a highly prized custom rod, which falls into a totally different category. As for pricing, that's a difficult question to answer because it all has to do with what a buyer is willing to pay. However, from what I've seen on the television auctions, and if it's as nice as the photo you sent, I'd expect you to attract in the \$28,000 to \$40,000 range, and maybe more with the right buyer.

As for how many are left, I'd say very, very few. The more time that passes, the more your '40 Panel Delivery Truck will be worth.

Island Snapshots



'THIS IS HOW WE DO IT'

Visiting members of the Tensuiren, Awa Odori Traditional Dance Group from Ko-Enji, Tokyo, Japan, and children from the Koblerville Youth Center teach members of the man'amko the steps for the Awa Odori dance at the Aging Office in Garapan. The event is part of the Paseo de Marianas Promoters Inc's 2nd Awa Odori Festival.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



2ND AWAODORI FESTIVAL

Visiting members of the Tensuiren, Awa Odori Traditional Dance Group from Ko-Enji, Tokyo, Japan, and kids of Koblerville Youth Center dance the Awa Odori during the 2nd Awa Odori Festival celebration at the Paseo De Marianas in Garapan Thursday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Kinpachi Restaurant staff and Ken Concepcion, youth program coordinator for the Koblerville Youth Center, hold the banner as they parade toward Paseo De Marianas in Garapan for the 2nd Awa Odori Festival Thursday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



SIGNATURE DRIVE

Human Dignity Movement officials, members and supporters gather near Townhouse Store in Chalan Kanoa Sunday for a petition signing calling for permanent immigration status for long-term alien works in the CNMI.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



DIEHARD FANS

Hard Rock Cafe pin collectors from Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, and mainland United States are welcomed at the airport by Hard Rock Cafe staff. The pin collectors annually make visits to Hard Rock Cafe branches anywhere across the globe. The group visited eight Hard Rock Cafe branches in Japan and on Guam prior to their visit to Saipan on Sunday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

VISITING SINGER

Visiting Japanese rising singer and composer Tetsuya Rikiyama performs his original songs at the Hard Rock Café Saipan Saturday. Mariana Blue Co., Ltd. Japan generously sponsored the charitable event through its owner, Yuka Kitamura.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



MBA SCIENCE FAIR

Marianas Baptist Academy 11th grade student John Lee demonstrates his work called "Distillation Flask" during the school's 3rd Annual Science Fair exhibit with the theme "Focusing on Science through Improvisation of Laboratory Apparatus" on Friday. MBA science teacher and science fair coordinator Lorna B. Liban initiated the event, which was participated by 76 entries from 7th-12th grade MBA students. The judges were Rep. Tina Sablan, MCS science teacher Luz Baldazo, CCA science teacher Sarah Rockhey and PSS Island-wide science fair coordinator Teresita A. Reyes.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Marianas Baptist Academy principal Ramiro Trinidad joins MBA English teacher Gloria Pangelinan, MBA science teacher and science fair coordinator Lorna B. Liban, Rep. Tina Sablan, PSS Island-wide science fair coordinator Teresita A. Reyes, and MCS science teacher Luz Baldazo during the school's 3rd Annual Science Fair exhibit.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



WELCOME TO SAIPAN

Island visitors Jennifer, Dustin and Flibert are given a welcome party on April 20, 2008 at the Miller Estate. The three are spending their summer vacation here on Saipan. Also shown in the picture are Cleto, Didith and Camille, Roy Connie and Baby Pauline, Ivy, Beth and Janice who sponsored the three visitors. Jen, Dustin and Flibert said that they are enjoying their stay on the Island. They will go back to the Philippines on April 30, 2008.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Marianas Baptist Academy students gather for a photo during the school's 3rd Annual Science Fair exhibit with the theme "Focusing on Science through Improvisation of Laboratory Apparatus" Friday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Life & Style

Hyatt hosts admin staff luncheon

Hyatt Regency Saipan hosted an Administrative Professionals Day luncheon on April 17 at the SandCastle showroom.

Besides the especially created buffet lunch menu, the luncheon also featured a raffle drawing and a fashion show, with clothes provided by Pena House Boutique and sunglasses by Hardt Eye Clinic.

Models for the fashion show were the SandCastle dancers, while the stylist was RenRen Santos from Geneveva's Hair Salon.

Among the attendees were employees of Duty Free Shoppers, Attorney General's Office, and some government offices.

Other sponsors were Pacific Wines & Spirits, Pacific Trading Co., and MarPac.



SandCastle dancers model clothes courtesy of Pena House Boutique during Thursday's Administrative Professionals Day luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.



SandCastle dancers also modeled casual clothes during the fashion show.

Stylist RenRen Santos of the Genoveva's Hair Salon poses with the models in Thursday's Administrative Professionals Day luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.



SandCastle dancers take to the stage, this time as models during the Administrative Professionals Day luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on April 17.



Among the attendees in Thursday's Administrative Professionals Day luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Saipan were employees of Duty Free Shoppers, Attorney General's Office, and some government offices.



Raffle prizes are given away after the luncheon.

'The Untouchables' rock Hard Rock Saipan

Hard Rock Cafe Saipan held a special show on Friday, April 18, featuring the "Untouchables," a group of cross-dressing performers from Guam.

The show, called "Dance to a Different Kind of Music," attracted a large crowd and Hard Rock was fully packed, with many of the military guys enjoying their visit to the Hard Rock Café.

Here are some pictures from the event:



Hard Rock Café was fully packed for the show, with many of the military visitors enjoying themselves.

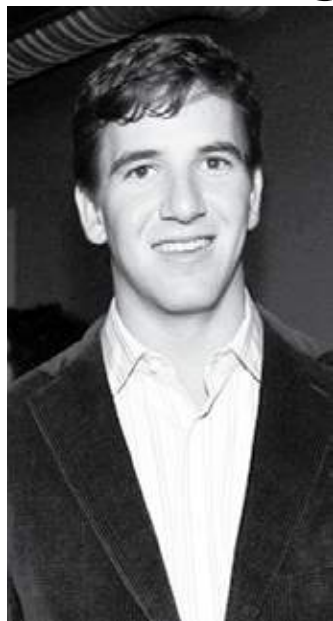


Members of The Untouchables, a group of cross-dressing performers from Guam, pose for the camera before the show.



The Untouchables during a solemn moment in the show.

Manning marries college sweetheart



AP
This Sunday, April 6, 2008 picture shows football player Eli Manning in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—A Super Bowl championship isn't the only big event this year for New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning.

Manning married college sweetheart Abby McGrew during a sunset ceremony Saturday at the One & Only Palmilla resort on Mexico's Baja Peninsula.

Both The New York Daily News and The New York Post covered the event, with the Daily News providing details from inside the intimate ceremony.

Manning, 27, and McGrew, 24, smiled and giggled during the 16-minute ceremony. They stood on a platform in the sand as waves crashed on the rocks behind them.

Manning and McGrew met as students at the University of Mississippi. Manning popped

the question to her during a date in Hoboken last March, and they chose the resort for their wedding after vacationing there several times, The Daily News reported.

McGrew carried a bouquet of white roses and wore a white gown with gold embroidering with a large bow and short train in the back. Her six bridesmaids wore champagne-colored strapless dresses.

Manning and his groomsmen wore khaki suits and white roses in their lapels. Manning wore a tie with blue and white stripes, while his groomsmen kept their collars open.

Moments before the ceremony, Eli Manning's brother Peyton, the Indianapolis Colts' star quarterback, wrapped his arm around his brother and whispered words of

encouragement to him.

The Daily News reported that the minister looked down at Eli Manning's hands during the ceremony and joked that they were "quite large."

Giants spokesman Pat Hanlon declined to discuss the wedding when contacted Sunday by The Associated Press. Phone messages for Manning's agent Tom Condon and his Giants teammate Shaun O'Hara weren't immediately returned.

Manning has been with the Giants since 2004 and was this year's Super Bowl MVP, leading the Giants to their 17-14 upset win over the New England Patriots. Manning threw 19 of 34 for 255 yards and two touchdowns, including a 13-yard touchdown pass to Plaxico Burress with 35 seconds to play.



AP
In this image released by Lionsgate Films, Jet Li, left, and Jackie Chan are shown in a scene from "The Forbidden Kingdom."

'Forbidden Kingdom' fights to top of box office with \$20.9M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A martial arts dream team—Jackie Chan and Jet Li—won the weekend as their movie matchup "The Forbidden Kingdom" debuted at No. 1 with \$20.9 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The tale of a modern American teen hurtled back in time to a kung fu adventure in ancient China, "The Forbidden Kingdom" features Asian superstars Chan and Li in multiple roles and their first big-screen duel.

"I couldn't believe it had never been done before," said Harvey Weinstein, whose Weinstein Co. released "The Forbidden Kingdom" along with partner Lionsgate.

Universal's romantic comedy "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," starring Jason Segel as a nice guy who's dumped by his glamorous girlfriend (Kristen Bell), opened in second place with \$17.3 million. It's the latest from producer Judd Apatow ("Knocked Up").

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, the slasher remake "Prom Night," fell to third with \$9.1 million, raising its total to \$32.6 million.

Al Pacino's serial killer thriller "88 Minutes," from Sony's TriStar Pictures, was a dud, premiering at No. 4 with \$6.8 million. The movie stars Pacino as a crime profiler who receives a call telling him he has 88 minutes to live.

"Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed," a rare documentary opening in wide release, debuted at No. 9 with \$3.1 million. Released by Rocky Mountain Pictures, the film features Ben Stein as he challenges Darwinian theories that prevail in academic circles and suggests that life could have emerged through intelligent design.

In narrower release, the Weinstein Co. documentary "Where in the World Is Osama bin Laden?" bombed with just \$143,299 in 102 theaters, averaging a paltry \$1,405 a cinema. "Forbidden Kingdom" averaged \$6,623 in 3,151 theaters.

A globe-trotting hunt for the al-Qaida leader, "Where in the World Is Osama bin Laden?" was directed by Morgan Spurlock, who made the hit documentary "Super Size Me."

With a PG-13 rating, "The Forbidden Kingdom" proved a family friendly film compared to more action-intense martial arts flicks. The movie is part of a new Asian line of films from the Weinstein Co., including an upcoming remake of "Seven Samurai."

"I have three daughters who have never seen a martial arts movie, and they loved this," Weinstein said. "A lot of females identify with it. That's the audience that's going to grow. I think we'll get young girls and moms next weekend."

Overall receipts were up for the first time in a month as Hollywood lumbers through a prolonged dry spell. The top 12 movies took in \$82.1 million, up 12 percent from the same weekend last year.

"There is a collective sigh of relief in Hollywood," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box office tracker Media By Numbers. "This is overdue and much needed as we head toward the beginning of the summer season."

Movie attendance is running 6.5 percent behind that of 2007, according to Media By Numbers.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

Death and Funeral Announcement

JEFFREY NAKATSUKASA MARATITA

Fondly known as "JEFF"

Born to Life: February 09, 1971
Called to Eternal Life: April 15, 2008
Of Afetna, San Antonio Village, Saipan

Was called to eternal home by our Lord at the age of 37.

Predeceased by:

Mother: Magdalena Taisakan Nakatsukasa Maratita
Maternal grandparents: Johannes Koyama & Consuelo Taisakan Nakatsukasa
Paternal grandparents: Robert Matantaotao & Brigida Camacho Maratita
Sister: Remedio N. Basa
Brothers: Herman T. Nakatsukasa, Juan N. Maratita & Johannes N. Maratita
Brother-in-law: Donald de la Rosa

Survived by his loving:

Father: Thomas Camacho Maratita
Wife: Juliana Duenas de la Rosa
Children: David Peter, Jerry Thomas, Tzarina Mae, Thaddeus Paul & Jiana Isa
Reared parents: Vicente D. & Rosalina M. Magofna
Parents-in-law: Antonio E. & Antonia D. de la Rosa
Godparents: Joaquin and Ana Cabrera, Francisco M. Sablan

Brothers/Sisters/Spouses & Children

Francisco S. Basa
Brigida N. Maratita
Rufino N./Tina N. Maratita
Robert N. Maratita
Eusebio N./Virginia Maratita
Rosalina M./Jose M. Taga
Consuelo M./Eddie Reyes
Diego N. Maratita
Edwina N. Maratita
Kuleta M./Joe Vince Taitano

Sister/Brother-in-law/Spouses & Children

Frances DLR. & Martin Pangelinan
Rudy & Nora de la Rosa
Joseph & Mary de la Rosa
William & Elinor de la Rosa
Vivian DLR. & Mariano Palacios
Robert de la Rosa
Nora DLR. & Mike Santos

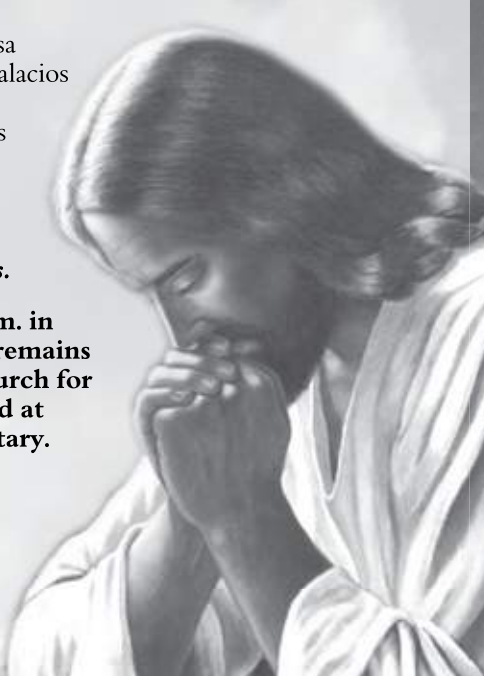
Additionally survived by numerous nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Holy Rosary is being prayed at 5:15 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m. in San Antonio Church. On Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at 7:00 a.m. his remains will be escorted from the Borja's Funeral Home to San Antonio Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment Service will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your presence and prayers is greatly appreciated.

Thank you yan si yu'us ma'ase.

From: Thomas Camacho Maratita
Juliana D. de la Rosa, Children and Family



Viacom, 5 Hollywood studios to create new TV channel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Viacom Inc. and five Hollywood studios are joining forces to create a television channel and video-on-demand service.

The companies said Sunday that the new venture will combine movies and television series from Paramount, Paramount Vantage, MGM, United Artists and Lionsgate, starting in fall 2009.

It will also have access dur-

ing the pay-per-view television window to recent movie releases from the studios, including "Iron Man," "Star Trek," and "Love Guru." Movies from the studios' archive libraries and new TV series created by the studios also will be featured.

Viacom will provide marketing and other operational support through its MTV Networks division.

Report: Don Omar weds Jackie Guerrido

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Reggaeton star Don Omar and TV weather forecaster Jackie Guerrido have reportedly tied the knot in their native Puerto Rico.

The U.S. territory's main daily, El Nuevo Dia, reports that the couple married in a lavish ceremony Saturday in the beachfront district of Isla Verde.

El Nuevo Dia says Omar and

Guerrido hosted 300 guests at a reception at an upscale hotel decorated with thousands of hydrangeas. The report was published Sunday.

Omar, one of reggaeton's biggest stars, is known for such hits as "Dale Don Dale" and "Pobre Diabla." Guerrido is the weather forecaster on Univision's morning news program, "Despierta America."



In this photo released by TV Notas magazine, who hold the exclusive rights of the event, Reggaeton star Don Omar and TV personality Jackie Guerrido are shown during their wedding in Carolina, Puerto Rico, Saturday, April 19, 2008.

Izzard eyes career in Euro politics

NEW YORK (AP) -- British comedian Eddie Izzard, whose acting career is taking off, is eyeing yet another possible career - politician.

Izzard, who plays Wayne Malloy in FX's "The Riches" and who just finished shooting "Valkyrie," starring Tom Cruise, told Newsweek he sees himself getting into European politics at some point.

"We've got to make it work in Europe," the cross-dressing comedian, 46, told the magazine for its issue hit-

In this Jan. 7, 2008, file photo, Eddie Izzard arrives at the 13th Annual Critic's Choice Awards in Santa Monica, Calif.

AP

ting newsstands Monday. "People are very worried about sovereignty and the loss of sovereignty. I think the stakes are if we don't make the European Union work, then the world is screwed. End of story."

Izzard, who's lending his voice to the upcoming film "Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian," said he enjoyed working on "Valkyrie." The film stars Cruise as Col. Claus Graf Schenk von Stauffenberg, the aristocratic army officer executed after a failed attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler in 1944.

Izzard's standup comedy act, "Stripped," is set to begin April 28 in Boston.



Quincy Jones speaks out about China and human rights

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's been more than a year since Quincy Jones was tapped to serve as a culture and art consultant for the 2008 summer Olympic games in Beijing. But instead of artistic planning, he's been focused on human rights.

"I don't pretend to be a politician," the music impresario and longtime humanitarian told The Associated Press. "I'm just a musician who cares."

Jones, 75, has met with the Chinese ambassador to the United Nations and was scheduled to address a group of Chinese-American business and cultural leaders in Los Angeles Saturday to discuss his position on China's role in the Darfur crisis.

China has faced protests from various human-rights groups for its mistreatment of Tibetans and for providing weapons and economic support to Sudan's war-torn Darfur region. Steven Spielberg, who was also named as an Olympic culture and art consultant, abandoned the role in February in protest of China's role in the Darfur conflict. World leaders have also threatened to

boycott the Olympics' opening ceremonies because of China's human-rights violations.

But Jones remains committed. "It's not my intention to withdraw from the Olympics," he was to say in his speech. "I care too much about Darfur and China and if I can stay in the game with others like us, I feel we can make a difference."

Jones hopes to have a role in assembling an ad-hoc committee to "go to Khartoum to sit down and try to get something done," he said. "The whole world has got to start taking responsibility for each other. With communication, you can no longer afford the luxury of thinking of national kinds of issues. Everything that's done anywhere is a world issue, and together there's lots of things we can do that nobody can do alone."

China can become "a hero in the eyes of the world" by sending United Nations African peace enforcers to the Darfur region, stopping arms imports

to the area and calling on Khartoum to force the Janjaweed militia to cease its attacks on civilians, Jones said.

But the problems in the area aren't solely China's responsibility.

"Not one country is perfect enough to throw stones at anybody," he said. "None. Especially not us."

Jones said he is less focused on China's role in Tibetan violence because it "is a difficult one to solve in three months. There's so much history behind it. But Sudan is happening every day. We're talking about babies dying in Darfur, so that one has got me personally."

He expects to see a tangible change before the Aug. 8 opening ceremonies.

"What I hope will happen is that we can at least alleviate some of the complexities involved in one of the two big dilemmas," he said.

Jones has no hard feelings

against Spielberg for dropping out of his Olympic role, he said. "That's his God-given right," Jones said.

China is bold for inserting itself into the public eye, Jones said.

"China's leadership took on the challenge of the Beijing Olympics knowing that the spotlight and focus would be on them, warts and all," he said. "Because the spotlight is on them, they now have the chance to show leadership and wisdom to change the world for the better."

Apart from Jones' humanitarian efforts and his work on the Olympics opening and closing ceremonies, he is preparing to score nine films and produce three albums, including those by Snoop Dogg, Stevie Wonder and Joe Pesci. And he shows no signs of slowing down.

"This part is the most rewarding part of my life now," he said. "Just being involved in different ways to help kids and help people get out of whatever it is, because I come from that."

Boy should bond with dad at home and not out hunting

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I am writing in response to the letter from "Concerned Grandpa" (Feb. 11), regarding his son-in-law taking his 4-year-old grandson hunting. I'll bet you were inundated with mail from both sides of this issue.

I fail to see how a 4-year-old can comprehend the safe use of a firearm, or navigate through the terrain to locate prey and return safely home.

Before the industrialized age, people were forced to hunt to put food on their tables. Today, whether they consume the meat or not, the majority of hunters (I use the term very loosely) are not "hunting." They are camouflaged, hiding in blinds or in tree stands waiting for the prey to wander by. Some even put out bait to lure the animals to their location.

There is no skill in hiding, waiting for an animal to wander by to be shot. These people are animal snipers. A true hunter would stalk prey using a bow and arrow for the kill. That son-in-law would better serve his son by staying home with him and teaching him real life skills.

—WALTER M. IN FLORIDA

DEAR WALTER M.: You are correct that my office was inundated with letters from readers on both sides of this issue. The comments ranged from child endangerment and cruelty to animals to the proper use of guns. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I started hunting with my dad and grandpa at the age of 4. It forged a bond between us that lasted until their deaths. Learning to be a hunter is also learning responsibility—specifically gun safety, game laws, and a deep respect for the animals and nature.

Even though you referred to hunting as "killing for sport," please remember: License fees help to pay for game habitat and management. Habitat and proper management assure a healthier game population and the survival of many species through conservation efforts. Also, children schooled in the safe handling of firearms at an early age aren't as likely to be involved in gun violence.

—CARING HUNTER, WALTERS, OKLA.

DEAR ABBY: I was a preschool teacher for several years, and the children who were the biggest bullies and least socialized were always—and I mean ALWAYS—the ones graphically exposed to the killing of animals. These children were aged from 3 to 5, the same age as the grandson in South Carolina.

The gentle, studious, most popular children never spoke of hunting, but the bullies would talk at length about killing, guns and blood. It affected their emotional stability and ideas about death.

Please urge Grandpa's son-in-law to wait until his son is old enough to understand death before allowing him to participate in it. The bonding and skill-building experience will be more meaningful and less traumatizing if the family waits.

—LOVES CHILDREN—AND HUNTING—
IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY: If the boy's parents are responsible hunters, they may be teaching their son gun safety, nature and wildlife conservation during these expeditions. Grandpa should thank his lucky stars that the boy has a father who cares enough about his son to spend time with him. Many fathers just can't be bothered.

—GAL HUNTER IN N.Y. STATE

DEAR ABBY: We can't trust our political leaders not to injure others while hunting. How do you trust a 4-year-old to abide by the rules and understand the consequences of breaking them? I can't even get my 4-year-old son to wash his hands after he goes to the bathroom!

—CONCERNED MOM, MARSHALLVILLE, OHIO

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

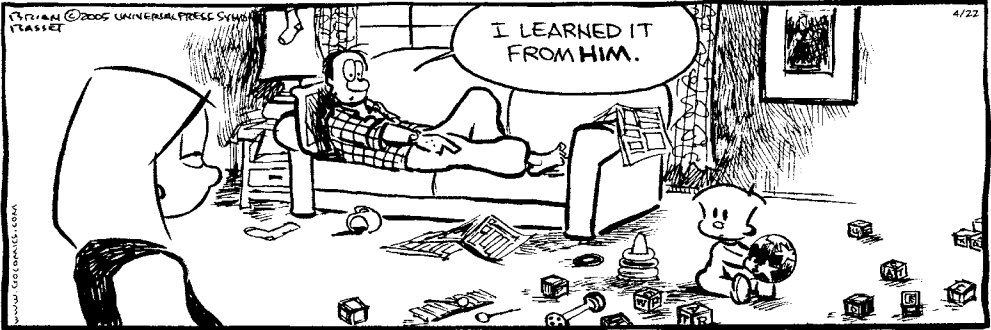
Calvin and Hobbes



Garfield®



Adam@home



The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Kiddie-lit author

5 Aries

8 Eatery

12 Clarinet's cousin

13 Historic time

14 Enthusiastic

15 Needle's hiding place?

17 Marathon fraction

18 Young bloke

19 Football team

21 Hemmed and —

24 Bosc, for one

25 Wan

26 Hasselhoff series

30 Conk out

31 "Will & Grace" role

32 Savings-plan acronym

33 Crosses the wrong way

DOWN

1 Homer's outcry

2 Lawyers' org.

3 Today (Sp.)

4 Stahl of "60 Minutes"

5 Peruse

6 Joan of —

7 Ogle, with "at"

8 Photog's gear

9 Tel —

10 Manicurist's tool

11 Paradise

16 Young Mr. Lincoln

20 Croquet venue

21 Muslim's pilgrimage

22 Largest continent

23 Curds' partner

24 Anorak

26 Troubadour's skill

27 Pinball no-no

28 Gator's cousin

29 "Thirty days —"

31 Hardy cabbage

34 Pack members

35 Compel forcefully

37 Hope or Barker

38 Iowa city

39 Nil

40 Dry

41 Church rendition

44 Mimic

45 Bygone days

46 Summer-time abbr.

47 Indispensable

Solution time: 21 mins.

I	F	S	P	A	P	A	S	R	I	G
T	E	A	A	B	O	V	E	E	V	A
S	E	C	E	S	S	I	O	N	M	A
S	H	A	N	I	A	S	O	U	S	
P	O	D	M	I	L	R	I	S	K	S
A	C	M	E	N	U	N	I	N	O	
S	K	I	N	S	G	O	B	O	E	R
S	O	M	A	B	O	N	N	E	T	
P	O	S	S	E	S	L	O	U		
O	B	I	A	C	C	E	S	S	I	O
M	O	O	R	O	U	S	T	S	H	E
P	E	N	S	T	E	T	S	P	O	W

Yesterday's answer 4-22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
			18				19	20		
21	22	23				24				
25				26				27	28	29
30				31				32		
33			34					35		
			36				37			
38	39	40					41			
42				43	44			45	46	47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Francis Capra, 25; Eric Mabius, 37; Ryan Stiles, 49; Jack Nicholson, 72

Happy Birthday: Home, family and your own well-being should take top priority this year. If change is necessary, make it happen instead of thinking about it. Don't give in to pressure to contribute to something that isn't going to make a difference to your life or environment. You be the judge. Your numbers are 9, 21, 25, 30, 44, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll be thinking too big and trying to do too much and that will be your downfall today. You have to keep your emotions down and your common sense up in order to finish well whatever you are doing. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Nothing can stop you once you've made up your mind. Take action at home and you will spark others to take part in your plans. Feeling good about your lifestyle and surroundings will make a difference to your morale. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone will try to take advantage of you. You may be tempted to take an impromptu trip or to delve into something totally different. Don't let too much change scatter you. Focus will get you ahead today. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Social events, networking or taking on a new hobby should all be at the top of your list but don't do any of the above because someone else wants you to. Do things for your benefit and knowledge. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): There is someone you shouldn't trust just waiting to put you in an awkward position. Let others go first for a change. You are far better off knowing what you are dealing with rather than having to do damage control later on. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Home, family and loved ones should all take priority over helping someone you aren't close to get ahead. Pull everyone you care about together for a worthwhile activity. Plan an entertaining time that will help build a close bond. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Temptation is likely to get to you. At least be smart and put your money in a safe place. The less you have to be frivolous with or to give away, the better. Don't let someone you love or are trying hard to impress bamboozle you. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Listen to what everyone else says before you share your opinions. Someone in a senior position or who can alter your life negatively will do so if you leave the wrong impression. Prepare to rework something that raises complaints. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't get so emotional you miss the point or you don't get things done. Put whatever is not working off to the side and move ahead with the plans that will bring positive results. Someone may question your true feelings. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll want to do everything for everyone and in a lavish way that will leave a long-lasting

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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impression. Go the distance and do whatever is needed to win popularity and favors. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't look for excuses or someone will stand up to you and question your lack of responsibility. You have to deal with issues instead of running from them. It may not be easy but, once you follow through, you will feel much better about your future. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take an idea you have and develop it. You will soon have something tangible to work with and people interested in what you are doing. There is money to be made if you invest in your own ideas, plans and future. *****

Birthday Baby: You are serious-minded, stubborn and dedicated to following through with your plans. You are loyal, steadfast and a great friend. You are emotional and relentless in love and in war.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

3	6	2	1							
						2	8	7		
7	1	9	2		6	4	8			
	8	5	4		9	2	3	1		
	5	7	8							
					4	3	1	6		

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	3	9	1	5	8	7	4
8	7	9	4	6	3	1	5	2
4	5	1	2	8	7	6	3	9
9	4	6	7	5	8	2	1	3
5	1	8	6	3	2	4	9	7
7	3	2	1	4	9	5	8	6
1	6	7	5	9	4	3	2	8
2	8	5	3	7	6	9	4	1
3	9	4	8	2	1	7	6	5

Difficulty Level ★ 4/21

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HIGH-IMPACT AEROBICS Solution: 9 letters

E	H	R	E	L	S	S	E	N	T	I	F	C	E	P
T	R	E	P	X	E	N	R	E	S	U	L	T	S	U
O	Y	A	A	H	E	A	L	T	H	A	E	R	R	O
M	L	C	L	R	M	R	N	M	S	R	X	A	E	R
O	E	H	G	U	T	E	C	S	U	E	I	I	W	G
R	V	Y	S	O	C	R	E	I	C	S	B	N	O	N
P	I	C	N	N	S	S	A	N	S	T	I	A	P	I
E	L	I	A	T	T	R	A	T	S	E	L	C	O	T
E	N	L	N	S	N	D	S	V	E	S	I	T	S	P
G	A	I	T	N	E	M	E	V	O	M	T	I	T	L
B	O	Y	T	E	E	F	E	K	S	I	Y	V	U	U
J	L	F	B	U	L	C	N	D	R	D	D	E	R	C
E	I	E	N	J	O	Y	K	U	R	O	E	R	S	
L	O	W	E	R	A	R	F	O	O	T	W	E	A	R
N	C	E	T	S	A	F	U	N	C	T	I	O	N	C

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Active, Balance, Cardiovascular, Classes, Club, Dance, Energy, Enjoy, Exercise, Expert, Fast, Feet, Fitness, Flexibility, Footwear, Function, Goals, Group, Health, Heartrate, Joints, Knees, Lean, Lift, Lively, Lower, Movement, Muscle, Music, Needs, Posture, Power, Promote, Reach, Rest, Results, Routine, Sculpting, Start, Style, Toning, Train, Work
Yesterday's Answer: Meow
Treasury 4 is available to order by sending check or money order for \$10.95 plus \$3.25 postage and handling (\$14.20 total, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, \$1.50 per each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

Gasol leads Lakers past Nuggets for 1st playoff



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pau Gasol finally discovered how it feels to be on the winning side in a postseason game. The 7-foot Spaniard had a whole lot to do with his first victory.

Gasol established playoff highs with 36 points and eight assists and had 16 rebounds as well Sunday as the Los Angeles Lakers took command early in the third quarter and beat the Denver Nuggets 128-114.

Gasol, a 27-year-old forward/center acquired from Memphis on Feb. 1 after spending 6 1/2 seasons with the Grizzlies, was 0-12 in three previous postseasons.

Kobe Bryant scored 18 of his 32 points in the final 8 minutes to keep Los Angeles safely ahead. Lamar Odom had 17 points, 14 rebounds and six assists and Luke Walton added 16 points for the Lakers, who entered having won eight of their last nine regular-season games to earn the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference.

Game 2 will be played Wednesday night at Staples Center before the best-of-seven series shifts to Denver for the third and fourth games.

Carmelo Anthony had 30 points and 12 rebounds for the eighth-seeded Nuggets. Allen Iverson also had 30 points before picking up two technical fouls with 2:10 remaining, calling for immediate ejection. Linas Kleiza scored a career playoff high 23 points and J.R. Smith added 15 before fouling out with 3:14 left.

The Nuggets should have it known wasn't going to be their day when several players were stranded on the Santa Monica Freeway for about a half-hour when the team bus broke down on the way to the game.

The bus left the team's hotel about 2 1/2 hours before tipoff as scheduled, but experienced problems about 15 minutes into the trip, spokesman Eric Sebastian said.

"There was a pop, black smoke, there was another pop, more black smoke," Sebastian said. "We rushed off the bus. We were standing on the side of the road."

The Nuggets' second bus, which left the team hotel about 30 minutes after the first one, stopped to pick up their teammates. The entire team made the rest of the trip to the arena, arriving



Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol celebrates a basket against the Denver Nuggets during the second half of Game 1 of a first-round NBA playoff basketball game in Los Angeles, Sunday, April 20, 2008.

about 90 minutes before game-time.

Denver had a 50-32 regular-season record, its best in 20 years. The Nuggets haven't won a playoff series since 1994, when as the eighth-seed, they upset the top-seeded Seattle SuperSonics, coached by current Denver coach George Karl.

The Lakers led 97-78 entering the fourth quarter, but an 11-2 run by Denver made it 101-91 with 8:17 remaining. The Nuggets drew within nine twice down the stretch, but Bryant wouldn't allow them to get any closer.

Gasol had eight points and Bryant added five during a 15-4 spurt to start the third quarter, giving the Lakers a 73-60 lead. Gasol added

six more points during a 14-5 run to finish the period.

Denver isn't known for its defense, finishing next-to-last in points allowed during the regular season, and it showed as the Lakers shot 10-of-16 to begin the game for a 21-11 lead.

It was 26-16 when the Lakers suddenly cooled off and Nuggets got hot. The result was a 25-7 run that put Denver on top 41-33. Kleiza and Smith combined to score Denver's first 20 points of the second quarter, getting 10 each. Then, with Gasol and Walton leading the way, the Lakers outscored the Nuggets 18-9 to finish the period for a 58-56 halftime lead.

Many in the partisan crowd chanted:

"DUI! DUI!" late in the opening period as Anthony shot two free throws—a reference to his arrest last week.

Magic 114, Raptors 100

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 25 points and 22 rebounds and Jameer Nelson added 24 points to help Orlando beat Toronto in the opener of their first-round series.

Howard scored six straight points in a 10-0 fourth-quarter run that sealed Orlando's first playoff win since 2003. He also blocked five shots and made 9-of-11 free throws.

Anthony Parker had 24 points and 8 rebounds for Toronto, Chris Bosh scored 21 and Rasho Nesterovic had 16 points and 8 rebounds.

The Raptors, who trailed by 20 points after the first quarter, drew within five with 10:24 left in the fourth. But Toronto went scoreless for the next 3:16 as Orlando pulled away.

76ers 90, Pistons 86

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Andre Miller scored 20 points and Willie Green had a career playoff-high 17, helping Philadelphia stun Detroit in Game 1 of their first-round series.

After the Sixers trailed 62-47, Green made two baskets to start a 10-0 run that sparked a comeback.

Miller gave Philadelphia a lead midway through the fourth quarter for the first time since late in the first.

The Pistons trailed by only one with 45 seconds left, then Philadelphia's Andre Iguodala made one of two free throws with 11 seconds left, and Rasheed Wallace missed a shot near the basket that would have tied it at 88.

Iguodala then made two free throws with 7 seconds left to seal the win.

Wallace had 24 points, nine rebounds and matched a franchise playoff record with seven blocks.

Detroit hosts Game 2 on Wednesday.

Celtics 104, Hawks 81

At Boston, Ray Allen scored 18 points and Kevin Garnett had 16 as the two newcomers who led Boston to the NBA's best record sparked it to a win in its playoff opener against Atlanta.

Garnett stopped a 14-3 Hawks run with a jumper, starting a six-point Boston surge that made it 35-27 in the second quarter. And Allen scored 10 straight Celtics points midway through

Nuggets' bus breaks down on way to arena for playoff opener

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Several Denver Nuggets players were stranded on the highway for about a half hour Sunday when the team bus broke down on the way to Staples Center for a playoff opener against the Los Angeles Lakers.

The bus left the team's hotel about 2 1/2 hours before tipoff as scheduled, but experienced problems about 15 minutes into the trip, club spokesman Eric Sebastian said. Players and staff had to wait on the Santa Monica Freeway.

"There was a pop, black smoke, there was another pop, more black smoke," Sebastian said. "We rushed off the bus. We were standing on the side of the road."

The Nuggets' second bus, which left the team hotel about 30 minutes after the first one, stopped to pick up their teammates. The entire team made the rest of the trip to the arena, arriving about 90 minutes before game-time.

"It was a good bonding experience," Sebastian said with a smile.

Rookie guard Taurean Green was on the first bus.

"It wasn't scary; it was just a little frustrating," he said. "All we could do is stand around. You don't want to start off the first series being delayed to the arena."

Nuggets coach George Karl was on the second bus. When told what happened, his response was: "Go pick 'em up."

"It was fine," he added. "It was a little pressure relief—laugh a little bit."

the third that extended a 13-point lead to 67-48 with 5:39 left in the period.

The top-seeded Celtics' lead ranged from 12 to 27 points the rest of the way.

Eighth-seeded Atlanta, which ended the NBA's longest playoff drought with its first appearance in nine years, was led by rookie Al Horford with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

Game 2 is on Wednesday.

Police make arrest in Vegas strip club shooting



LAS VEGAS (AP)—A Washington man was arrested Friday in the triple shooting at a Las Vegas strip club that led to the suspension of NFL cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones.

Las Vegas police said Arvin Kenti Edwards was arrested late Friday at the Yakima County Correctional facility, where he was already in custody on unrelated charges.

Police said Edwards, 29, of Renton, Wash., faces three counts of attempted murder with a weapon and three counts of battery with substantial bodily harm. Edwards remains jailed awaiting extradition. It wasn't immediately clear if he had an attorney.

Las Vegas police spokesman Bill Cas-sell would not provide more details.

Club bouncer Tommy Urbanski was

paralyzed from the waist down in the February 2007 shooting at the Minxx strip club during a raucous NBA All-Star Weekend.

Las Vegas police said Jones incited a fight that led to the shooting. The 24-year-old suspended Tennessee Titans star pleaded no contest in December to a disorderly conduct charge, agreeing to a year probation, random drug testing, community service and anger management classes.

Two co-defendants also took plea deals.

Jones' lawyer declined to say when his client last spoke with detectives.

"Adam continues to cooperate with the Las Vegas police department," said Las Vegas-based lawyer Robert Langford. "He is happy that whatever assistance he provided was helpful in making the arrest of the shooter."

Jones' bodyguard, Robert "Big Rob" Reid of Carson, Calif., pleaded no contest to conspiracy to commit disorderly conduct in return for a promise of one year of probation. Reid had faced a felony coercion charge.

Sadia Morrison of New York, pleaded no contest to a felony battery charge in return for prosecutors dropping other felony charges.

Sentencing dates for Jones, Reid and Morrison have not been set.

Witnesses at the strip club told authorities that Jones grabbed money from a large plastic trash bag and showered strippers on stage with cash in an act known as "making it rain." A melee ensued, and shots were fired later outside the club. Urbanski, another bouncer and a female patron were wounded.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell

suspended Jones last April for the 2007 season for his off-field conduct. The sixth pick in the 2005 draft has been arrested six times since being drafted. His status for the 2008 season remains unclear, although Goodell has said he will consider reinstating Jones before the season if he remains on his best behavior.

Minxx owner Robert Susnar said he was happy to hear of the arrest and expected his employees would be able to help investigators.

"We had plenty of people who got a clear look at the guy. I'm confident that if, in fact, that person they have in custody was the shooter, he will be identified by our employees," he said.

Urbanski was "ecstatic" to learn of the arrest, said Matthew Dushoff, lawyer for paralyzed Urbanski and his wife, Kathy Urbanski.

"This is something he always hoped

would happen," Dushoff said. "But it's been so long since the incident he thought they would never find the guy."

Urbanski has filed a civil lawsuit seeking to recover unspecified damages from Jones, the NFL, the Titans and the owners of Harlem Knights, a Houston strip club that rented the Las Vegas club the night of the shooting.

A Nevada state court judge dismissed the Titans from the civil case on jurisdictional grounds, saying the team didn't do business in Nevada and couldn't be held responsible for Jones' behavior at the strip club.

The league has sought to be dropped from the Urbanski case on similar jurisdictional grounds.

Jones' lawyer has said that despite Jones' plea in the melee inside the club there was no evidence linking Jones to the shooting outside.

No hearing date has been scheduled in federal court, Dushoff said.

Weekley defends title at Verizon Heritage



HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C.
(A P) — Boo Weekley won his second straight

Verizon Heritage—and didn't need any dramatic chip-ins to do it.

Weekley captured his second career PGA Tour title at Harbour Town Golf Links on Sunday, shooting an even-par 71 for a three-shot victory over Anthony Kim (71) and Aaron Baddeley (69).

A year ago, Weekley needed miraculous chips on the 71st and 72nd holes to edge Ernie Els by a stroke. In this one, Weekley took a three-shot lead into the final round and watched it grow by mostly staying trouble free, and seeing competitors struggle to try and catch up.

"It was a lot easier than last year, wasn't it?" a smiling Weekley said to his group on the 17th hole after his routine par.

Kim trailed by three at the start and, paired with Weekley, was in the best spot to pressure the leader. But Kim's chance at a first PGA Tour title disappeared with a double bogey on the par-4 ninth.

AP
Boo Weekley holds his trophy after winning the 2008 Verizon Heritage golf tournament Sunday, April 20, 2008, at Harbour Town Golf Links on Hilton Head Island, S.C.



Jim Furyk, ranked ninth in the world, was the hardest charger early, cutting a six-stroke deficit in half with three birdies in the first five holes. Furyk, though, fell back with a bogey on the 11th.

He shot a 69 to finish fourth, his third top-five finish in the past four Verizon Heritages.

No one else, including former Verizon Heritage champs Baddeley and Stewart Cink, could make a run at Weekley.

"I just struggled," Weekley said. "I reckon everybody struggled."

Not that Weekley didn't add his own pizzazz to the round. He made bogey on No. 8 after botching a chip, then looked in trouble on the 10th with a difficult pitch over a bunker. And Weekley killed it—right into the cup for a birdie that put him up by five.

Weekley grinned as the gallery chanted his name over and over.

He did it again four holes later, slam dunking a 30-footer for birdie from the fringe that if it didn't hit the cup might have rolled into the water off the edge of the peninsula green.

Again, the crowd ate it up as Weekley pumped his fists in celebration.

Weekley earned \$990,000, and a second straight invitation to the Masters. He tied for 20th at Augusta National to miss qualifying for 2009.

The even-par finishing round ended Weekley's string of seven rounds here in the 60s.

Weekley's the first with consecutive victories here since five-time winner Davis Love III in 1991 and 1992. The late Payne Stewart (1989, 1990) was the only other to go back-to-back at Harbour Town's history.

Both those stars had played this tournament several times before that success. Weekley just teed it up here for the first time last year.

Perhaps more important for him, Weekley can revel in his Harbour Town title for another year.

He's charmed the galleries with his "Hee Haw" demeanor in a country club world full of starched collars and hushed tones.

He proudly calls himself a redneck. He chews tobacco at times during his round. "It's just a habit," he says. "It's a bad one, but it's a habit."

Weekley's just as likely to rake a bunker or give a ball to a young fan—as he did to one adorable blonde preschooler during Saturday's round—as to shoo away autograph seekers.

What would you expect from some one who got his nickname from Yogi Berra's cartoon sidekick, Boo Boo.

It's clear that Weekley knows Harbour Town better than your aa-ver-age golfer.

Braves beat Dodgers to complete 3-game sweep



ATLANTA
(AP)—Jair Jurrjens pitched three-hit ball for seven innings, Mark Teixeira homered and the Atlanta Braves beat Los Angeles 6-1 in the National League on Sunday for their first sweep of the Dodgers in eight years.

The Braves gave up only three runs in defeating the Dodgers three times.

Jurrjens (2-2) struck out a career-high eight. Russell Martin homered in the fourth inning for the Dodgers' only run.

Dodgers starter Hiroki Kuroda (1-2) gave up seven hits with four walks in six innings but allowed only two runs.

Reds 4, Brewers 3, 10 innings

At Cincinnati, Edwin Encarnacion and Paul Bako hit consecutive homers off Eric Gagne in the 10th inning, and Ken Griffey Jr. followed with a run-scoring single that gave Cincinnati the victory.

Encarnacion helped Milwaukee pull ahead 3-1 in the top of the 10th with his sixth fielding error.

Jared Burton (1-1) let in a run with a wild pitch, and J.J. Hardy singled home another.

Marlins 6, Nationals 1

At Miami, Scott Olsen allowed only three hits in seven innings and Hanley Ramirez hit two home runs for Florida.

Olsen (3-0) gave up one run, won his third start in a row and lowered his ERA to 2.60.

Washington's Odalis Perez pitched six innings but remained winless despite allowing only one run, which was unearned.

Cubs 13, Pirates 6

At Chicago, Aramis Ramirez tied a career-high with four hits, including a two-run homer, and Chicago beat Pitts-

burgh to complete its second three-game sweep of them this season.

Ryan Theriot added four hits, scored three runs and drove in two in Chicago's ninth straight win against the Pirates, matching the Cubs' longest win streak against them since Sept. 5, 1938 to May 13, 1939.

Astros 6, Colorado 4

At Houston, Kaz Matsui hit a two-run single in the eighth inning against his former team, helping Houston end a three-game losing streak.

Hunter Pence led off the eighth with a single and Mark Loretta walked against reliever Brian Fuentes (0-1), who allowed a run for the first time in 10 appearances this season. Both runners moved up on an infield out to set up Matsui's tiebreaking hit.

Giants 8, Cardinals 2

At St. Louis, Bengie Molina hit three doubles and drove in three runs, and San Francisco beat St. Louis to win the season series 4-3.

John Bowker hit his third career home run, all against the Cardinals, for their first series loss of the season.

Jonathan Sanchez (1-1) pitched two-hit ball for five innings.

Braden Looper (3-1) allowed seven runs on 10 hits in three-plus innings. He missed a chance to become the Cardinals' first starter to start the year 4-0 since Matt Morris in 2002.

Padres 9, Diamondbacks 4

At Phoenix, Justin Huber connected off Randy Johnson for his first career home run, ruining the Big Unit's return and helping San Diego snap a four-game losing streak.

Huber supplied the big blow, a three-run homer in the sixth inning.

Johnson (0-1) gave up six runs, four of them earned, and six hits in 5

2-3 innings.

Randy Wolf (2-0) allowed four runs and six hits in 6 1-3 innings for the Padres.

Phillies 5, Mets 4

At Philadelphia, Chase Utley hit two home runs and Pedro Feliz added a tie-breaking pinch-hit homer in the seventh to help Philadelphia avoid a sweep.

Utley went 3-for-3 with four RBIs and two runs and helped end Philadelphia's four-game losing streak against the Mets.

Eric Bruntlett, starting at shortstop for the injured Jimmy Rollins, made a diving stop on Carlos Beltran's hard grounder up the middle with two outs in the ninth and runners on first and second, likely preventing the tying run from scoring.

Feliz led off the seventh with the decisive homer off Pedro Feliciano (0-1).

Blue Jays 5, Tigers 3

At Toronto, David Eckstein hit a three-run homer, supplying some of the power Toronto might miss without Frank Thomas, and the Blue Jays beat the Detroit Tigers.

A.J. Burnett (2-1) issued a season-high six walks in five innings but still managed to win for the first time in four starts. He allowed three runs and four hits.

Toronto released Thomas before the game, one day after the slumping designated hitter became angry for being taken out of the lineup. The move leaves the Blue Jays on the hook for the remainder of the \$18 million (€11.5 million), two-year contract the 39-year-old Thomas signed in November 2006.

Thomas' replacement, Rod Barajas, went 0-for-3.

Twins 2, Indians 1, 10 innings

At Minneapolis, Justin Morneau singled home Brendan Harris in the 10th, lifting

Minnesota to the win.

Morneau is hitting a pedestrian .269 this season, but is 9-for-15 (.600) with 12 RBIs with runners in scoring position.

Rafael Perez (0-1) took the loss in relief of an impressive start from Paul Byrd, and defending AL Central champion Cleveland has lost 12 of its last 16.

Harris had three hits and a home run and Scott Baker allowed one run and five hits in seven innings for the Twins, who took two of three from the Indians despite scoring only five runs in the series.

Red Sox 6, Rangers 5

At Boston, Sean Casey's bases-loaded walk capped a four-run eighth inning and Boston overcame a 5-0 deficit.

Ian Kinsler led off the game with a home run for Texas. Milton Bradley had a three-run homer off Tim Lincecum (2-0) in the sixth, a shot that hit an advertising sign above the Monster seats in left field and made it 5-0.

Boston closed to 5-2 in the seventh against starter Kevin Millwood on RBI singles by David Ortiz and J.D. Drew.

Yankees 7, Orioles 1

At Baltimore, Alex Rodriguez hit a RBI double and scored before leaving with a thigh injury, and New York ended a three-game losing streak.

Andy Pettitte (3-1) pitched seven scoreless innings, Johnny Damon homered and Derek Jeter had a three-run double as the Yankees avoided their first three-game sweep in Baltimore since 2005. New York dodged its first four-game skid since last July.

White Sox 6, Rays 0

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Jim Thome hit career homer No. 512 and John Danks struck out eight in seven innings for Chicago.

Thome also tied a career high with four hits. His homer tied him with Hall of

Famers Ernie Banks and Eddie Mathews for 19th place on the all-time MLB list.

Danks (2-1) allowed three singles and has not given up a run in two straight starts, totaling 14 2-3 innings. It's the first time he has won back-to-back starts since last July.

Edwin Jackson (2-2) gave up six runs and seven hits in 4 1-3 innings for Tampa Bay.

Mariners 4, Angels 2

At Anaheim, California, Miguel Batista scattered eight hits over 7 2-3 scoreless innings, Richie Sexson hit a two-run homer and Seattle avoided a three-game sweep.

Los Angeles scored twice in the ninth before Ryan Rowland-Smith struck out Garret Anderson on a full-count pitch with the bases loaded to end it.

Batista (2-2) struck out eight and walked one while lowering his ERA from 6.35 to 4.38.

Dustin Moseley (1-2) allowed four runs, eight hits and two walks over 4 2-3 innings for the Angels.

Athletics 7, Royals 1

At Oakland, California, Jack Hanahan's two-run double highlighted a five-run fourth inning and Dana Eveland (2-1) won for the first time in three starts as Oakland completed a three-game sweep.

Rob Bowen, Chris Denorfia and Mark Ellis all hit RBI singles in the fourth off Kansas City rooker Luke Hochevar (0-1) as the A's batted around, and Bowen singled in another run in the fifth. Bobby Crosby went 3-for-4 with an RBI.

Kansas City managed just three hits and had 15 in the series to Oakland's 42. The Royals were outscored 26-8.

Oakland improved to 12-8 for its best record through 20 games since starting 13-7 in 1992.

Hustlers continue to cruise in 8-ball

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Pacesetter SaipanCell Hustlers didn't lose ground after nipping sister team Perfect Spotter, 4-3, as the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League continues to wind down its 2008 winter spring season last week.

The Hustlers still have a 10-game lead over Porky's Extremist after their closest

pursuer defeated Coral Reef Shark Attacks with the same score also last week.

With two play dates remaining on the calendar, Hustlers boast of a 72-19 win-loss record, while Porky's Extremist at 62-29 has a shaky hold on second place with the 61-30 Jonny's Destroyers breathing down their collective necks.

Wild Wild West (58-33), Coral Reef Shark Attack (55-36), Porky's Wild Hogs (51-40), Len's 5 Bad Boyz (49-42), USSP Fotten Palau (43-41), Mr. Wonderful

Shooters (46-45), Godfathers Magas (42-49), Wild Bill's Snipers (37-54), USSP Wat-Ever (37-54), Perfect Spotter (34-47), Coral Reef Barracuda (28-63), Len's 5 Amigos (28-63), and VFW Warriors (18-66) make up the rest of the teams in the league.

Last week's other results saw Jonny's Destroyers beat Mr. Wonderful Shooters, 5-2; Wild Wild West sweep VFW Warriors, 7-0; Porky's Wild Hogs down Coral Reef Barracuda, 4-3; Wild Bill's Snipers turned

the tables against Len's 5 Bad Boyz, 4-3; USSP Fotten Palau edged Godfathers Magas, 4-3; and USSP Wat-Ever skunked Len's 5 Amigos, 7-0.

Pacific Amusement, the same company that runs the leagues of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association, organizes the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League.

For more information about the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League and the SEDA leagues, contact league secretary Charlotte Tenepere at 233-4397.

8 PAIRS

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need to tie the count at 20-all. In badminton, in case of a tie at 20-all the first player or pair to score the next two points wins the set or match.

That comeback was highlighted by Aguda's jump smash of an Achas return to end the set and force a rubber.

Fatigue, however, tolled heavily for Aguda and Montoya as Mendoza and Achas opened up with an early eight-point lead that they never relinquish en route to wrapping up the match at 21-10.

The Men's and Women's B divisions pair of Joseph Santos and Alvin Alvarez, and Marlene Peraja and Emily Vargas became tournament early favorites after winning their first two matches.

Santos and Alvarez scored similar close wins over the tandem of June Pineda and Jojo Savellano, 31-26, and the duo of Robert Reyes and Gerry Balarao, 31-28.

Peraja and Vargas opened up with a 31-19 win over Shirley Kim and Malou Malasarte then scored a 31-18 triumph against Merlie Savellano and Camille Samonte.

Savellano and Samonte first defeated Loyda Ito and Babes Cielo, 31-28. Ito and Cielo bounced back with a 31-24 decision against Janis Parcon and Juliet Ramos.

In other Men's B division games, the Eric Peña-Jonathan Perez tandem scored a 31-18 victory over Gary Bandoja and Aries Cordero, while Roger Vales and Saul Gargallo squeezed out a 31-26 win over Sherwin Samson and Ariel Mariano.

In Women's B, Elma Labuson and Janice Bungalos won by default against the pair of sisters Lot Abuel and Lanie Bartolome.

In Men's C, Effen Cacadac and Paul Navarro scored a 20-22, 21-12, 21-12 win over Obet Aguilar and Sherwin Pasillos, while in the women's division 16-year-old Angie Ito teamed up with Anna Rose Omori in scoring a 21-11, 21-8 demolition of Irene Santiago and Annette Ta.

Badminton action returns tomorrow when the 2nd Annual Northern Marianas Badminton Federation Doubles Tournament kicks off at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The tournament is supported in part by Michelob, MARPAC, JET Holdings, SaipanCell, At Your Service, Serenity Salon, Elegance Café, NIC, Canton Restaurant, National Office

Supply, Makeover Beauty Salon, Megavision, Nathan Clarke Matsumoto, and the tournament committee.

The men's Class A and B divisions will follow a round-robin format since it is only consist of three pairs, while the men's and women's B, and mixed doubles will have a double elimination round.

The tournament will be held every Saturday and Tuesday only with the play dates slated on April 19, 22, 26, and 29, and May 3 and 6. A defaulting time of 15 minutes will be followed in the tournament.

The elimination round games will follow one set of race-to-31 points in both the doubles and mixed doubles events. The quarter, semis, and finals will follow the regular scoring consisting of three-set matches of 21 points.

BEVY

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ers in each flight will get \$300 and \$200, respectively.

This year's tournament will be different since they won't be awarding trophies to the Top 3 placers and instead will hand out certificates. Exciting raffle prizes also await all participants

Aside from the cash prizes for the Top 3 finishers in each flight, close to \$75,000 are at stake for hole-in-one winners.

Golfers who ace hole No. 3 would win \$5,000 cash courtesy of Century Insurance Corp., while anyone who sinks a shot in one stroke in either holes No. 7 and 13 is guaranteed \$25,000 cash from Bank of Hawaii and AON Insurance.

One lucky golfer will get the chance to win a brand new 2008 Mazda 3 courtesy of Triple J Motors if he or she sinks the ball in one swing in hole No. 17.

Holes No. 3, 7, 13, and 17 are all par-3 holes. Show time for Saturday's tournament is at 6am while shotgun starts at 7am.

Cash prizes are also at stake in the closest to the pin winners at all par-3 holes. Sign up for each hole is \$20 with the closest to the pin winners earning the total cash collected in the four holes.

More prizes are offered in the raffle to be held at the post-tournament banquet at the Hyatt Regency Saipan poolside on Saturday night. A special sponsors cocktail party at the Club V of the Saipan Grand Hotel will also be held on the eve of the 6th Annual

NMC Foundation Open.

Organizers have already collected \$91,500 in cash donations from all sponsors.

The NMC Foundation Open organizing committee—led by chairman Michael von Sieben-thal, co-chair Ben Babauta, and members Mark Mendiola, Joanna Pai, and Ivan Quichocho—met last Friday at the Kili Café at the Hyatt Regency Saipan to update their ongoing preparations for the Commonwealth's second "major" golf tournament.

More than 80 have already registered for Saturday's event and beat the April 19 deadline, paying only \$85. The sign up fee is now \$100.

A volunteers' meeting will also be held at the NMC conference room tomorrow, April 22, 9am to discuss the assignments

for Saturday's tournament, which will follow a special double Peoria on all men's flights.

Proceeds from the 6th Annual NMC Foundation Open will go toward the needs of the islands' lone tertiary institution.

For registration information, contact Mark Mendiola at 234-5498 ext. 1050 or visit Triple J Motors, NMC cashier's window, or the Laolao Bay Golf Resort to sign up.

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds and support the Northern Marianas College, Saipan's lone post-secondary educational institution. It is made up of individuals who are dedicated and committed to ensuring that CNMI students receive the utmost support in pursuing their educational goals.

FREE

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CTSI Pacers also in the Masters 40-and-up division.

Cacho scored 24 points for the Pawnbrokers, which led early in the first quarter and was never threatened after that. Sonny "Sunshine" Rañola and Amor Casabuena added 20 and 12 markers also for GEC.

Adonis Macoto scored 21 points for the Pacers, while Ariel Jinang and Ferdie Tobias chipped in 20 and 10 each.

SMF-Seabridge ended its two-game slump after scoring a 105-92 trouncing of Star Water.

Leo Itaas had 28 points to lead four other SMF players who finished in double digits. Meljun "White" Capalad had 17 points. Sonny Lerio and Andy Mortos contributed 12 and 11 more.

Christian Arreza's 36 points led the Waterkings, who even led at 29-16 after the first quarter, while Gil Gapor added 24 markers and Maclein Achas ending up with 13.

It was also the Waterkings' second straight loss after suffering a 112-54 blowout from Ol'Aces on April 11.

First Game
Taga Warriors 107 – Cosino 27, Pineda 24, Bicera 21, E. Di-

zon 13, R. Dizon 8, Jacob 8, Banaag 4, Echavez 2.

Fixers 89 – Aguon 36, Salazar 9, Garcia 8, Poquiz 8, Alegre 6, Tamondong 6, Johleno 5, Valencia 5, Concepcion 2, Hideo 2, Irinaka 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-21, 42-40, 75-60, 106-89.

Referees: Jess Pabula and Dado Vistal.

Second Game
GEC Pawnshop 89 – Cacho 24, Rañola 20, Casabuena 12, Mesa 7, Peredo 6, Viola 6, Culala 5, Buenbajo 4, Olivos 2.

Tan Holdings-CTSI 74 – Macoto 21, Jinang 20, Tobias 10, Solidum 7, Dimaano 6,

Salazar 6, Alejandro 2, Galag 1, Ramoran 1.

Scoring by quarters: 23-16, 46-31, 68-49, 89-74.

Referees: Eric Artillaga and Jess Pabula.

Third Game
SMF Seabridge 105 – Itaas 28, Capalad 17, Bernardo 14, Lerio 12, Mortos 11, Hugos 8, Manansala 8, Delfin 5, Siriban 2.

Star Water 92 – Arreza 36, Gapor 24, Ma. Achas 13, R. Achas 8, Odicla 8, Mateo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 16-29, 43-43, 71-63, 105-92.

Referees: Eric Artillaga and Arnold Mesa.

SEA CRAFT

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split the \$500 third place prize.

MV Gloria II and *Blue Water* placed fourth and fifth with catches of 20.25 lbs. and 20 lbs., respectively.

MV Gloria II was piloted by Juan Sablan and it had a full crew made up of Ray Guerrero, Frank Ada, Blumal Ada, Regina Andres, Jenna Hall, and Tom Diaz. Sablan and company are the defending champions of the wahoo fishing derby.

Meanwhile, Blue Water's

captain was Cui Yu Jie and its crew was composed of Cui Jun Jie and Shen Wen Zhe.

Saipan Fishermen's Association treasurer Floyd Masga said he was pleased with the turnout and the amount of catch, considering that boats and their crew had to endure rough sea conditions the whole day Saturday.

For his part, Mike Babauta of event sponsor Pacific Trading Co., said the 32-boat field was two more than what the annual Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby attracted last year.

"There were two more extra boats, so I'm happy."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES			
MLB STANDINGS			
AMERICAN LEAGUE			
East Division			
Boston	W 13	L 7	Pct .650 GB —
Baltimore	11	8	.579 1 1/2
Toronto	10	9	.526 2 1/2
New York	10	10	.500 3
Tampa Bay	8	11	.421 4 1/2
Central Division			
Chicago	11	7	.611 —
Kansas City	9	10	.474 2 1/2
Minnesota	9	10	.474 2 1/2
Cleveland	7	12	.368 4 1/2
Detroit	6	13	.316 5 1/2
West Division			
Los Angeles	12	8	.600 —
Oakland	12	8	.600 —
Seattle	10	10	.500 2
Texas	7	12	.368 4 1/2
NATIONAL LEAGUE			
East Division			
Florida	11	7	.611 —
New York	10	7	.588 1/2
Atlanta	9	9	.500 2
Philadelphia	9	10	.474 2 1/2
Washington	5	14	.263 6 1/2
Central Division			
Chicago	12	6	.667 —
St. Louis	12	7	.632 1/2
Milwaukee	11	7	.611 1
Cincinnati	8	11	.421 4 1/2
Pittsburgh	7	11	.389 5
Houston	7	12	.368 5 1/2
West Division			
Arizona	13	5	.722 —
Colorado	9	9	.500 4
San Diego	9	10	.474 4 1/2
San Francisco	8	11	.421 5 1/2
Los Angeles	7	11	.389 6
Yesterday's Games			
Toronto 5, Detroit 3			
Boston 6, Texas 5			
N.Y. Yankees 7, Baltimore 1			
Chicago White Sox 6, Tampa Bay 0			
Minnesota 2, Cleveland 1, 10 innings			
Seattle 4, L.A. Angels 2			
Oakland 7, Kansas City 1			
Florida 6, Washington 1			
Cincinnati 4, Milwaukee 3, 10 innings			
Atlanta 6, L.A. Dodgers 1			
Houston 6, Colorado 4			
San Francisco 8, St. Louis 2			
Chicago Cubs 13, Pittsburgh 6			
San Diego 9, Arizona 4			
Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Mets 4			
VERIZON HERITAGE SCORES			
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina (AP)—Scores Sunday from the Verizon Heritage, a \$5.5 million (€3.5 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at the 7,697-yard, par-71 Harbour Town Golf Links:			
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS			
LOCAL SCORES			
FMI Standings			
Ol'Aces	3	0	
Advance X-Terminators	3	0	
GEC Pawnshop	2	2	
Shirley's Coffee Shop	2	2	
TASI Tours Giants	2	2	
Price Costco	1	1	
SMF-Seabridge	1	2	
Starwater	0	2	
MIGS	0	3	

DCCA men's duplicate women's feat

PHOTOS and TEXT By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The men's team of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs followed the footsteps of its women's squad after dominating the individual awards in the Inter-Government Slow-pitch Softball League.

Veteran slugger Mel Sakisat won three individual trophies earning him the regular season most valuable player award. He was one of the players that helped DCCA won the pennant going 18-0 in the regular season.

Sakisat logged in MVP numbers winning the batting title with a .607 average, and connected with a total of 22 doubles the whole season. He then added the pitching crown after posting a 6.02 ERA.

Sakisat's teammates Joey Dela Cruz, Craig Sanchez, and Julian Camacho also won individual honors.

Dela Cruz was the home run king with 19 and added the RBI title with 57, while Sanchez scored the most runs this season with 57. Camacho had the most triples, connecting with 17.

Public School Systems' John Deleon Guerrero was the league's strikeout king with 19, while the Mayor's Office earned the sportsmanship award.

Pete Tomokane was named the finals MVP after leading the DCCA hit parade going 5-for-6 with five runs scored to go with his eight RBIs and three home runs including a grand slam.

Other members of Team DCCA were Jun Saralu, Myron Sablan, Eli Rangamar, Ben Tagabuel, James Fleming, Mario Sablan, and Jon Tenorio.

DCCA swept the men's and women's titles after beating separate opponents in the finals. The DCCA men's coasted to a 43-11 win over Aguagat in last week's finals, while their women's team swept Northern Marianas College-Proa in their three-game series, 18-14, and 13-10, on April 11.

Aguagat was the runner-up in the pennant race and placed second to DCCA in the championship. PSS placed third in the finals after losing to Aguagat in the semifinals.



Public School System poses with their third place trophy.



Team DCCA flashes the No. 3 sign after winning their third straight title.



John Deleon Guerrero, right, poses with Elias Rangamar after receiving his most strikeouts trophy in last week's award ceremony for the 2007/08 Inter-Government Slow-pitch Softball League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.



Mel Sakisat shows off his regular season most valuable player trophy after winning the batting and pitching crowns, and the most doubles award.



Craig Sanchez, right, receives his most runs trophy from Division of Sports and Recreation's Eli Rangamar.



Aguagat shows off their second place trophy.



Joey Dela Cruz, right, collected the home run and RBI titles.



Julian Camacho, right, receives his most triples award.



Former Department of Community and Cultural Affairs staff Jon Tenorio, right, receives the Sportsmanship award for the Mayor's Office.



DCCA men's duplicate women's feat

The men's team of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs followed the footsteps of its women's squad after dominating the individual awards in the Inter-Government Slow-pitch Softball League.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Gasol leads Lakers past Nuggets in his 1st playoff victory

Pau Gasol finally discovered how it feels to be on the winning side in a postseason game. The 7-foot Spaniard had a whole lot to do with his first victory.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sea Craft reels in mightiest mahi

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Capt. Rolly Trajeco and two crewmen of *Sea Craft Four* won the 4th Annual Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby held after reeling in a 24.3-lb. mahi-mahi caught in Tinian waters last Saturday.

Trajeco said he, Annie Legaspi, and Liody Bukid grappled with the monster mahi for about 15 minutes before heading back to Smiling Cove Marina a mere four hours after setting sail, confident that the 24-pounder they caught was the day's prize catch.

Trajeco said he was so confident with the weight of their mahi-mahi that they immediately pulled anchor and headed back to Saipan. They had their catch registered and weighed in a couple of hours before lunchtime.

The *Sea Craft* pilot's prediction turned out right, as Trajeco and company came away with the \$1,500 first place purse after barely beating out runner-up boat *Tweety Bird* which reeled in a mahi-mahi that tipped the scales at 24.25 lbs.

Captain Eric David and his crewmen composed of Gonzalo Pangelinan and Tak Nakazoto pocketed \$1,000 for their effort.

Last year's runner-up tandem of Tony Maestro and Manding Legaspi wound up third this time after *DJ Fish Mobile* caught a 22.35-lb. mahi-mahi. The two

See SEA CRAFT on Page 26



Capt. Rolly Trajeco, right, and Liody Bukid of *Sea Craft Four* pose with the prize-winning catch of the 4th Annual Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina weighing station. The mighty mahi weighed 24.3 lbs. Not in photo is third crewmember Annie Legaspi.

Bevy of prizes await NMC Open winners

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



A bevy of prizes await golfers that will join the seven categories in this Saturday's 6th Annual NMC Foundation Open at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Champions of each flight—Championship, A, B, C, Senior, Ladies, and the double Peoria—will receive roundtrip tickets from Continental Airlines.

The Top 3 finishers will also receive cash prizes with the champions winning \$500, while the second and third plac-

See BEVY on Page 26

8 pairs open with wins in badminton tourney

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Men's A division team of Lito Mendoza and Ryan Achas led seven other pairs that won their opening round matches at the start of the 1st Annual Mich-elob Ultra Badminton Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Mendoza and Achas, who also teamed up in last year's Traders/PTI Cup where they placed second to Macoi Aguda and Raj Jayalal, are aiming for their first title when they go up against two other pairs.

They avenged their last year's finals loss to Aguda, who this time partnered with Edwin Montoya.

Mendoza and Achas scored a hard-earned 21-16, 21-23, 21-10 win over the Aguda-Montoya tandem.

Fans were treated to a period of long rallies, excellent net plays, and baseline shots as both pairs treated the match as if it was already a championship game.

Mendoza and Achas managed to squeeze out a 21-16 win in the first set and was two points away in wrapping up the contest in the second set when Aguda and Montoya turned things around to force a deciding third frame.

Leading 19-15, and match point at 20-18, Mendoza and Achas allowed Aguda and Montoya score the points they

See 8 PAIRS on Page 26



MARK RABAGO
Ryan Achas, left, prepares to serve while Lito Mendoza waits for the return in this file photo taken in last year's Traders/PTI Cup Badminton Tournament.

Free throws help Warriors beat Fixers

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Steady free throw shooting helped Taga Warriors beat Fixers, 107-89,

in the Masters division in the 2008 Friends of the Mariana Islands Inter-Color Basketball League held last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Warriors had a 72 percent clip at the free throw line, going 27-for-37 with veteran center Ed Cosino shooting a team-high 78 percent, making 11 of his 14 shots at the charity stripe.

Cosino also teamed up with fellow veterans Elmer Pineda and Danny Bicera in the second half as the trio used an inside-outside combination in the final 20 minutes of the game to pull away from a tight 42-40 half-time lead.

The three combined for 41 of the Warriors' 65 points in the

second half to help secure the win for the Taga crew. Pineda, aside from his outside scoring, helped set up Bicera and Cosino's inside incursions as the two veteran cagers powered their way in the shaded area.

Cosino paced the Warriors with 27 points, 16 of which coming in the second half, while Pineda netted 24 markers with Bicera added 21 more. The three also got plenty of scoring support from Eric Dizon's 13 points.

CNMI Men's National team coach Rufino Aguon buried nine 3-pointers ending up with 36 points to lead the Fixers' losing cause as no other player finished in double digits.

Art Salazar, Boy Garcia, George Poquiz, Bobot Alegre, and Robert Tamondong combined for 47 points to support Aguon.

In the second game, Moly Cacho waxed hot early to lift GEC Pawnshop to an 89-74 triumph over the Tan Holdings-

See FREE on Page 26



JON PEREZ

NMC Open tournament officials, clockwise from left, chairman Michael von Siebenthal, Joanna Pai, and Ivan Quichocho listens to co-chair Ben Babauta while Mark Mendiola looks on during their meeting last Friday at the Kili Café at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.